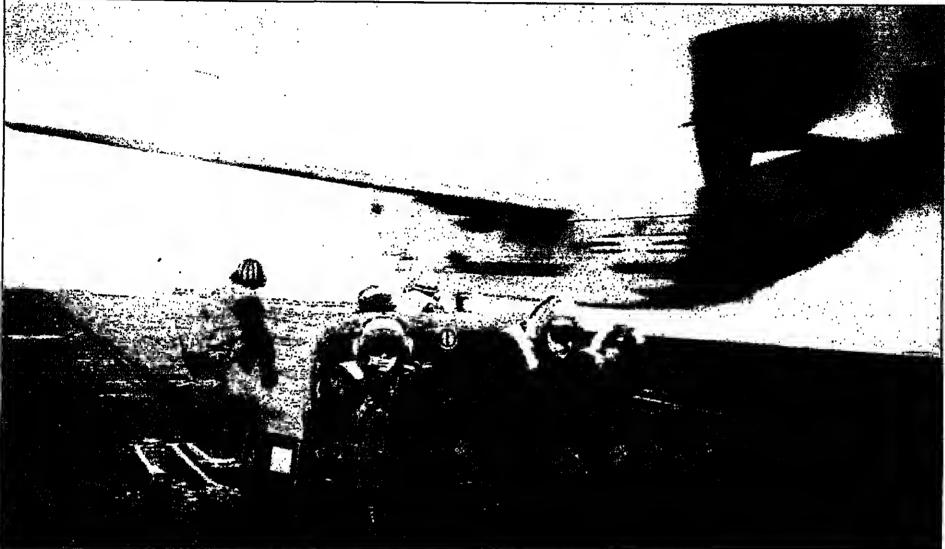
56 PAGES OF SPRING STYLE FOR MEN AND WOMEN



Nato sounds war alert as Kosovo talks falter



A C-2 Greybound being launched from the USS 'Enterprise'. Nato has 430 warplanes, including B-52s with cruise missiles, massed on 48-hour standby

HOPES OF a Kosovo peace deal By RUPERT CORNWELL by today's deadline were fading last night as diplomats, aid workers and peace monitors left Yugoslavia, and Slobodan Milosevic refused to meet the chief mediator, the American envoy Christopher Hill.

The prospect of imminent Nato raids against Serbia is looming large. "Nato is ready to take whatever measures are necessary ... these include airstrikes," the secretary-general, Javier Solana, said.

Mr Hill went to Belgrade for a last-ditch effort to persuade the Yugoslav president to allow Nato peace-keepers into the Serbian province and thus remove the main obstacle to a

talks by the deadline of 11am GMT. If Mr Milosevic does not relent, strikes against military targets could be launched in days, conceivably hours - a ssage conveyed in a personal phone call by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, on Thursday. But Mr Milosevic showed no sign of blinking, telling a Cypriot del-egation that Belgrade would not give up Kosovo "even if we are

While Nato has drawn up plans for raids, planners recognise that conflict with Belgrade would be fraught with danger. Some 430 warplanes, including settlement at the Rambouillet 260 US aircraft - among them

and B-2 bombers, are massed, on 48-bour standby, to attack in what Nato calls Operation Noble Anvil. The US is sending six of the B-52 long-range bombers, armed with cruise missiles, to the UK. But it was

unclear yesterday how quickly strikes might be launched. Mr Milosevic has tried to exploit divisions in the Contact Group, and Russia, his traditional friend in the six-nation body, has been voicing ever louder its opposition not only to air strikes, but also the pres-

ence of Nato peace-keepers. As Mr Milosevic spoke, the brinkmanship intensified, with withdrawing oon-essential

F-117 Stealth bombers, B-52s staff. Several Western govern- "stop-the-clock" formula to ethnic Albanians, who constiments, including Britain, the US and Germany, advised their nationals not to go to Yugoslavia, and to leave if they were already there.

At the same time, dignitaries including Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, co-chairman of the conference, which started on 6 February, were arriving in Rambouillet for its end. But an admission of failure seemed in store rather than the announcement of a deal granting Kosovo wide autonomy and ending a year-long war that has killed 2,000 and driven 300,000

people from their homes The best hope last night - but foreign missions in Belgrade not one diplomats were encouraging - seemed some

allow a day or two's extra time in the search for a break- tion of Kosovo, were criticising through. "It looks very tough to reach a settlement, but we will be making every effort right down to the wire," Mr Cook said as he left for Paris, where he was to meet his French counterpart and conference co-

possibly Mrs Albright. Closing one possible avenue of compromise, the Russian mediator, the Deputy Foreign Minister, Boris Mayorsky, denied that Russia was trying to win over.Mr Milosevic by offering to deploy its own troops in the

planned 28,000-strong force. Complicating matters further, some negotiators for the Belgrade.

tute 90 per cent of the popula-

a deal they had earlier seemed

to accept. Angry at the absence of any reference in the 60page final draft agreement to a referendum that would lead to independence, they accused the Western mediators of excessively favouring Belgrade.

chairman, Hubert Vedrine, and If the Albanians balk at the deal, punishing Mr Milosevic alone would be much harder for Nato to justify. But air strikes against the guerrilla Kosovo Liberation Army are unfeasible. All the allies could do would be to cut off the supply of arms to the KLA, and warn them that

takes stars' debt plea to G7 summit BY ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

Chancellor

GORDON BROWN is throwing his weight behind calls this week by rock stars, headed by Bono and David Bowie, and the boxing legend Muhammad Ali to cancel huge amounts of Third World debt,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will today appeal to his counterparts among the Group of Seven finance ministers to slash the burden of poor countries' debts by \$50bn (£31bn) by the end of the millennium.

At the G7 meeting in Bonn, Mr Brown will table fresh proposals to speed up aid. He wants all the needy countries to be on a systematic programme of debt reduction by 2000. He will also call for a clear link between debt relief and aid to the poor to ensure that cancelled debt repayments are channelled into health, education and economic development, rather than the pockets

of self-serving political élites. Mr Brown said that he would also be renewing his debt relief. It has already been proposed that the IMF sell five million ounces hut Mr Brown said he believed that should be

Bono. the lead singer of the pop group U2, and Mr Ali were in Britain earlier this week to support Jubilee 2000, a campaign calling for \$371hn of debts owed hy the poorest nations to be cancelled by the end of the millennium.

Ann Pettifor, director of Jubilee 2000, said: "The Chancellor is responding directly to Bono and Muhammad Ali and



Bono: Called for debt relief

that's great news, \$50hn to be wiped off the debt mountain of \$371bn is a good start. But there is still a long way to go."

lan Bray, a spokesman for Oxfam, which is also involved in the campaign, said: "The political train is leaving now. Poblically it is innortant that the Chancellor is putting his head on the block.

He welcomed the Chancellor linking debt relief to where the money is spent. "Debt write-off is not an end in itself. call for the International Mon- It is kids in schools. Kids that etary Fund to sell some of its get vaccinated, that is the test."

Mr Brown, terday, admitted that the proposals fell short of the demands being made by Mr Ali's campaign. But he insisted that they were "practical measures" which had a real chance of being implemented.

He pointed out that recently Gerhard Schroder, the German Chancellor, and Al Gore; the US Vice-President, have expressed hroad support.

Mr Brown and Clare Short, the Overseas Development Minister, wrote this week to the World Bank and the IMF urging them to back his reforms.

Scientists get the pip over GM tomatoes



Zeneca's Sir Nigel Poole leading the way with GM food

IT COULD turn out to be the BY STEVE CONNOR ultimate GM nightmare for a British biotechnology company, whose employees were pictured on the front of a national newspaper eating genetically

The photograph in The Daily Telegraph of Dr Nigel Poole and colleagues from Zeneca Plant Science showed the scientists munching their way through whole tomatoes, seeds included. Now the company is to be reported to the Government's health and safety watchdog for possible breach of the regulations governing the escape of GM organisms into the environment.

modified tomatoes.

Officials fear that the seeds digestive systems of the Zeneca be examined as a hreach of the staff and germinated in a containment regulations, or

Science Editor

sewage farm somewhere in deepest Berkshire. Professor John Beringer,

chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Enbe has no option hut to report Zeneca to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is responsible for prosecutions under the regulations governing the containment of GM plants and animals.

"If they were knowingly eating the tomatoes including the seeds then they are probably bringing about a release to the environment." Professor of the GM tomatoes could have Beringer said. "My colleagues passed straight through the are uncertain whether it would

whether it would be deemed a seeds for many years, the last deliberate release. It's probably a breach of cootainment."

Dr Poole told the newspaper that over the past 10 years about 40 staff at Zeneca have eaten fresh GM tomatoes, which have not been approved for sale vironment, said yesterday that in Britain except in a tomato puree where the seeds are destroyed in the process. His wife and two grown-up children have also been willing guinea pigs. "We did it to show confidence in our research," he said.

When asked whether the capbon to the photograph was correct in describing the team eating GM tomatoes, Dr Poole said they were in fact ordinary tomatoes because there were no ripe GM versions around at the time. However, he confirmed that he and his colleagues have eaten GM tomatoes and their

time just before Christmas. A geoe in Zeneca's GM tomato has been altered to

lowing it to be picked when it is ripe rather than green. The research came out of Nottingham University in the Eighties and was developed into a commercial product by ICI Seeds - which later became Zeneca - led by Simon Best,

business development manager. Mr Best was asked in 1989 whether the GM tomatoes tasted nice. He replied that eating them was not allowed: "If people swallowed the tomato seeds the plants could end up growing in a sewage farm somewhere and this would be an unauthorised release of a ge-

Bio-technology, page 4

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Sussex Police scraps 999 Home P6

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G7 summit

French and German

economies show signs of

weakness as G7 meets

Meet the Mufti How Britain flirted with Hitler's Arab friends in post-war Palestine

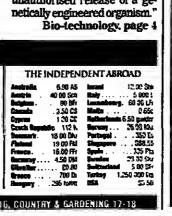
INSIDE THE REVIEW

Terrence Malick The lost genius of The Thin Red Line' profiled Comment P5

The Saturday Essay Lack of characters in modern novels means the public prefers biography Comment P6

The agony of the XTC Mr Partridge! The return of an English eccentric Arts P12





Trek Nepal'99 they are on their own against give it a longer shelf life. al-Could you trek for a week in Nepal to raise funds for Deafblind people? imagine a landscape covered with snow capped mountains, fascinating wildlife, glaciers, rivers and lakes - then imagine the opportunity to spend a week trekking through the heart of this wilderness. You'll only need a week off work. The Annapurna Challenge is a trip of a lifetime. Cost to you: £195 Departures: October 16th, 23rd, 30th November 6th, 13th 1999 For more information call 0870 1290101

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

I was soundly, nakedly, publicly dressed down by a knock-jawed, dark, wrecked beauty of a termagant, who spat invective at me through a mouthful of teeth gone akimbo,

Will Self meets Tracey Emin

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING AN WILSON, ALAIN DE BOTTON, SIMON SINGH, DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, PETER YORK, JOAN SMITH, GILBERT ADAJR, MICHAEL BYWATER, JOHN MORTIMER AND WALLACE ARNOLD

'Sue us' Lawrence suspects are told

racist murder of black teenagyesterday challenged to back their protestations of innocence a knife, showing somebody how

The Daily Mail invited the "Lawrence Five" to sue it for libel after the suspects' mothers took part in a radio interview and claimed their sons were not racist or violent and had been victimised by the media.

The mothers of David Nortis, the brothers Neil and Jamie Acourt, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight also maintained they wanted to sue the Daily Mail, which had branded the five "murderers". They claimed they were only prevented from doing so because of lack of funds.

In response the newspaper stated it would "welcome the opportunity to establish the truth in a court of law about this terrible crime"

The interview with Pam Knight, Patricia Acourt, Pauline Dobsoo and Theresa Norris on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme with presenter John Humphrys came days before Sir William Macphersoo publishes his report on the murder.

Under questioning the women claimed that the "perecution" of their sons was "political". One added: "Our sons aren't racist. We take people as we find them." When Mr with Stephen when died, yes-Humphrys pointed out that the five had been secretly filmed by of hlack people in a drama-docthe police "using the most appalling racist language and behaving in the most appalling racist way", One of the women

explained it away as "bravado". Mr Humphrys asked Mrs Acourt about footage which showed Neil Acourt "wielding AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE

to stab a black man ... if it didn't suggest violence, it's hard to imagine what might?"

She responded: "I don't think it suggested violence at all .. was play acting."

The women refused to say where their sons were on the night of Stephen's death "because of legal reasons". And they claimed the men had not sued for libel because they had been advised by lawyers it would cost "at least £500,000". Asked what they would say

to any lawyer prepared to assist with a libel action, one said: "Please get in touch."

In the past, however, the "Lawrence Five" have done their utmost not to answer questions about the murder - both at the inquest and the inquiry. The BBC defended the in-

terview saying the programme wanted to bear all sides. Humphrys said it had been a difficult one to get right. "I wanted them to talk and if you get a sense ... that by shouting and screaming and banging the table they are not going to talk then you'd be mad to conduct the interview that way." Duwayne Brooks, the man umentary oo the crime. "Steve and I were made to look like ruffians, with the sort of street talk that we didn't use. How can we get rid of stereotyping if people like these film-makers haven't learnt by now the damage it can do?" he said in a statement.



Dancers in Bradford at yesterday's launch of a month-long festival to celebrate 150 years of the culture of one of the city's main ethnic groups the Irish. Their mass arrival to escape famine means that at least 60,000 Bradfordians can claim Irish ancestry

Garden fertiliser 'waste of money'

BY PHILIP POPE

GARDEN FERTILISERS are a raste of money, according to a

Gardening Which? magazine tested six gardens over aperiod of three years and concluded that those left alone did just as well as those fed with artificial fertilisers or organic

The report concluded: "Sadly for the fertiliser industry, our trials have shown that, in the majority of cases, it's not worth bothering to feed your

Each garden tested included a lawn, bulbs, perennial herries, vegetables, a rose and a dwarf tree. Only four of the gardens

were fed, two with liquid and Growmore fertilisers and the other two with manure and liquid comfrey plant.

One magainst

calls on T.

After three years the Which? gardeners found no significant differences between the gardens.

A spokeswoman said: Plants in the fed gardens did grow slightly lusher and lawns needed cutting more often but there were oo real advantages in adding extra nutrients to the

Additional trials involving more than 25,000 plants and 22 different fertilisers yielded the same results.

Alistair Ayres, the editor of Gardening Which?, said: Feeding is only worthwhile for a few greedy crops like cabbages and fer plants in containers but in the majority of cases it is not worth bothering to feed gardens at all."

But John Cushnie, a frequent panelist on the BBC's Gardeners' Question Time, said: "I do agree that fertiliser is possibly overrated and that too much of it is used.

"But the report said that plants in the fed gardens were lusher and a lovely velvety green lawn is what most gardeners strive for."

Blairites handed quango jobs

THE GOVERNMENT is packing BY ANDREW MULLINS new quangos with Labour sunporters in a "jobs for the boys" strategy, similar to the Tory

cised when in Opposition.

More than third of the 103 members of the new Regional able Tory placemen". Development Agencies have direct links to the Labour party.

In a letter seen by The Independent, Sir Jeremy Beecham, Labour chairman of the Local Government Association, has complained of "problems of political balance" to the Minister for the Regions, Richard Caborn.

In 1995, Tony Blair told Labour's annual conference: AND PAUL WAUGH

"It's time to sweep away the . trasts with the seven Conserpractice which the party criti- quango state." In the same a vatives and eight Liberal " year he pledged to stop "every- Democrats appointed Afinther; thing being run by unaccount-

Gillian Shephard, Tory spokesman on the regions, said last night: "This is Labour's gerrymandering of the whole system to ensure only their voice is heard. It is a denial of democracy and the peach of hypocrisy on Labour's part."

The eight RDAs across Eng-land have 103 members, of which 35 are Labour councillors, union officials, and people

BRITAIN TODAY

ing organisations. Two others: are Labour lords. This 37 con-· 13 are connected to the Government by other ministerial appointments, many of which are paid roles.

RDAs were established by John Prescott's Department of the Environment, Transport Lord Thomas of Macclesfield, and the Regions last December Each of the agencies has a chairman paid £44,000 a year for two days work a week and a board of up to 13 members paid a salary of £7,000 for two days a month.

LIGHTING UP

gional development by raising people's skills and regenerating the social and physical environment. The agencies are . funded by fibriof public money; ("Christine Wood, begional) sec-A possible further £1bn raised from business is being allocated to attract inward investment, ootahly from the and regional secretary of the

European Union. Among the RDA chairmen is ennobled by Labour last year. He runs the North West RDA and is paid £425 for each of his two days a week. Lord Haskins. chairman of Northern Foods and a substantial party donor, receives £290 per meeting as an

the 10 Labour leaders on RDAs. The ministry said last night that independent assessors took part in shortlisting and interviews. All appointments had been made in accordance with guidelines from the Commis-

Curran, who sits on the North

East's RDA, is northern re-

gional secretary of the GMB

union. Other union officials are

retary of TUC Midlands re-

gion, and James Hunt,

chairman of the Midlands TUC

TGWU. Richard Leese, of Man-

chester city council, is one of

sioner for Public Appointments.

THE WORLD EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

General streation Overright rain will soon door the south-east to leave much of southern England dry with sunny spells, although it will be colder than recently. The Michaels and East Angla will also have surnly spells, but showers will break out later. Wales, northern England and Northern Ireland will be breaky with sun showers, the showers merging into longer spells of rain later. Scotland will have heavy showers, most inspirent in the west and turning to snow on the hills.

Loudon, SE & Cent S England: Rain clearing to leave it mostly dry with sunny spells, but colder than yesterday with an increasing risk of showers. A moderate west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 8-10C (46-507).

NW 4 SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles, N Isles: The occasional early surny spell but cold and blustery with showers turning increasingly wintry. A strong to gale force westerly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F).

OUTLOOK

uendors, A12 Green Man Pouncabout, Leytonstone, Major roadworks on new M11 ink road, Until 31st December. inf. road. Until 31st usususus.
Cambridgethine A10 beheen Florion and M11. Resultang and bridge membraneos work at Shepreth M51. Until 14th February Bristolt: M5 J18-19. Major Roadronks on Augmmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001.
Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamenth services and J9 Sutton Coleffold. Roadronks and contraliow. Until 23rd April.
Greater Manufastier: A57. Narrow lanes. Manufastierbound, due to Métrolink con-

South Verlightns: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Visidud; [A8178]. \$154 Tinsley Visidud; [A8178]. \$154 Tinsley Visidud; [A8178]. \$heffield, Carriageway reduced to 2 lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestanel/feet. A40 Lansdown Rd, Cheltentram, Closed due to readworks inbound. Diversional in place. Until 1st Juna. Soffice. A14 February: Docks. Roadworks. until 29th February.

AA Readwarder: Call 0336 401777 for the 19th 1st Juna. Souther Call 0336 charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

SUN & MOON WEATHERLINE For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Mec. Office. Calls charged at 50p pet ridn (Inc VAT)

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YESTERDAY EXTREMES Coldest (day): Stornoway 4C (39F)

For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

HEAVY SNOWFALL and the danger of avalanches closed the Gotthard Tunnel in Switzerland, a key north-south route through the Alps, and some 500 people were evacuated from their exposed homes yesterday.

Some 450 trucks were backed up on the oorth side of the tunnel, which is expected to reopen today. Several remote mountain villages, including resorts in Grindelwald and Adelboden, were cut off.

MONTH THOMSON ILLACE ARNOLD

Garden

fertiliser

money

4.50 ******

" PEE

Never

forget:

an ass

donkey

IF YOUR name is Fanny, change it. If your name is Randolph, don't shorten it. And for good-

ness sake, always remember that an ass is a donkey This is the latest advice to American executives whose career paths lead across the pond to Britain, a country with cold weather and warm beer. where cowboys are "dodgs builders" and Indians "wear turbans, not feathers' It caused amusement this week at the American oil com many America when in the form of a 50-munt checklist cutified "Things you need to know about working for a British eninpany", it was passed

"Power lunches and working breakfasts will be replaced by elevenses and tea-breaks", it warns, adding, "Offices will be 12ft x 6ft for executives, 5ft x 5ft for senior managers. Everyone else will be shochorned into a small open-plan space, it will

Taking a swipe at the Great

British workplace - in a manner that could have been written by a Brit - the list warns: "The company jet will be replaced by the company bike. Company

BY STEVE BOGGAN

among staff.

nnt be air-conditioned."

is a



Robin Page and his lurcher, Bramble: 'I am very upset at the way the rural culture has been sidelined. It's almost urban colonialism'

One man, his dog, and a crusade against the mandarins of the BBC

ROBIN PAGE meets me at the BY ANN TRENEMAN door of his farm cottage in the village of Barton, in Cambridgeshire, and explodes, "This is the first minute of peace I've had this week." As if on queue, the phone rings. It's Sky Television. He apologises but the phone rings again anyway.

this week after Mr Page launched his campaign to save

Hund"." One of the many phone

paign has now attracted 2,483 letters. "Holy Camels!" he says. Outrage is an overused word but it is absolutely the right one to describe how Mr Page feels about the BBC. He says that cancelling the programme is a The frenzy began, earlier, slor against the country, rural

"There is an immense prej- elitist view of the world." ithink we are semi-literate."

has been done. This news made the front page of The Sun yescalls during the interview was terday. "Now this was a lifelong years," he says. He is a farmer,

the story and a small picture of himself on the front. "I'm just extremely sorry that you can't see my nipples." He would prefer the programme to stay on the BBC though he is hardly diplomatic. "You know I'm a bit worried that the BBC management may be genebically modified," he says. What does he mean? "They have such an

the BBC sheepdog programme. udice against country people. If ... Mr. Page is a 55-year-old heart are in the country. I am. crisis for 70 years. One Man and his Dog. He has keyou've got a raral accent, peo-we bundle of energy and incredibly. every upset at the way the rural : - At this point, a bundle of hair presented the programme for ple think you are thick. People smiable. He may be angry but culture has been sidelined. It's walks shakily into the study. he is also jolly and so manages "Even German television Sky is interested in getting to he friendly about it. He is so want an interview," he says. the programme though no deal busy that he is having trouble finding time to get married. "I've been engaged for two

farming organisation called the Countryside Restoration Trust. But when I ask him how he would describe himself he says: "An English peasant." He is serious about this and says Wat Tvier the leader of the Peasants' Revolt, is a hero.

But what does it mean? "It modified food, the closure of means that I consider myself very ordinary. My boots and my He says farming is in its almost urban colonialism."

Party candidate as a move against the Common Agricultural Policy and says that he is now disenfranchised.

says, and New Labour is in the He's had four collie sheepdogs same trough. He has asked six but three were killed on the ministers down to see the work roads and the loss of the last that is being done by the Restoration Trust. Two turned get another. him down and four never bothered to reply. "The countryside is in crisis," he says. "There are so many issues - genetically

This is Bramble, a 16-year-old He stood as a Referendum lurcher with confusingly long locks. Mr Page confirms that Bramble has some terrier in her too, "The idea was to create a dog that looks like a

abattoirs, the fall in prices."

one was too heartbreaking to He was born next door this sister lives there now). "So I've only travelled 10 feet in my life,"

he says. His grandfather left school at 13 to become a shepherd boy and went on to train owned four shops and bought the 113-acre farm in 1925. Mr Page has beef cattle, hens, "because I like them".

Other obsessions include cricket, wildlife and Africa, His conversation is wildly unpredictable. At one point he was

he met a lesbian separatist there who has started a wildlife refuge for female animals only No males allowed, "So if you're a poor little male fruit bat and you fall out of tree into that refuge, you're in hig trouble."

the cricket when he says that

But then he is serious again as he gathers up Bramble and his shepherd's crook for the person hut I am also desperately sad at the same time about what is happening to what I regard as my people - if that doesn't sound too much like Billy Graham." Then the phone rang and a television crew arrived. It's been a bizarre day, said Mr Page. Not, I

ted dick at least twice a week." Bemused execubves are told: "Giggling uncontrollably at toilet humour and words like 'bottom' is normal behaviour. And even when talking about dancing, seabirds, tobacco or hairdos, never use the word 'shag'."

cars will be similar in size to a

shoebox and will have an engine

hairdryer. Food portions in the

company canteen will be large

enough to feed a small pygmy.

The restaurant will serve spot-

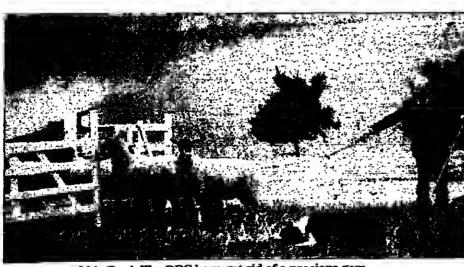
There is the usual complaint that "cold drinks will be served with a maximum of two icecubes, which will not be renewable. Cold drinks will not be renewable either."

Most complaints will ring true to the British worker - The company's social club's sports activities will be cricket, darts and football booliganism."

Three other pieces of advice, however, may not. Point number 46 states: "Nobody likes Fer gie. At all." No 47: "Nobody ever did." No 48: "Or ever will."

Latching on to a typical preoccupation with un-PC office practices, the advice adds. "The company newspaper will have a photo of a semi-naked woman on page three and lots of juicy articles about who [sic] the receptionist is

Abandon this asset? You would have to be barking



shepherds Yentoh and Salmon have pursed their lips and blown time, after 23 glorious years, of One Mon And His

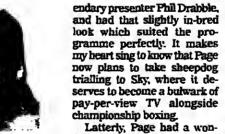
Dog.
You'd think they would have built up the spectacle of sheepdog trialling so that when critics made remarks to the effect that the BBC no longer seems committed to sport-having lost the FA Cup Final and Test cricket, not to mention the unsociable scheduling of Match of the Day - they would have been able to say, "Ah, but we still have One Man And His Dog."

While ITV's Gladiators made heroes of Jet. Hunter and



BRIAN VINER

One Man And His Dog also made heroes of Jet, Hunter and Saracen. And they were more than tough, nimble and quickthinking. They had really bad breath, too.



derful foil in the commentator Gus Dermody, who bore comparison with the likes of John

Morrison and Bill McLaren In fact, he was arguably an even finer commentator for it is a relatively simple matter to excite viewers when a great goal or try is scored, but it takes some



wards the shedding ring." Dermody considered it very

non-ewe to get too frenzied. He delivered his commentary flatly, without the shricking hyperbole of a Murray Walker, in fact without the sbrieking hyperbole of a speaking clock. "And Sid's away to the right, Sid's going quite square, Sid's working them well," I recall him

saying one week of the eventual winning dog. Every word carried the conviction that sheepdog trialling is the noblest and most thrilling pursuit known to man. And he may have been right. In which case. BBC executives have got



Book by 3rd March 1999. All flights are direct from London Stansted. To make a reservation call 0990 074 074, see Teletext page 373 or contact your travel agent.

Market and the second and the second

From all over the UK, to all over the world. KLM UK

studen

revolt

gainst the NU

Sainsbury used China trip to promote biotechnology

LORD SAINSBURY of Turville BY FRAN ABRAMS promoted biotechnology on an Westminster Correspondent official visit to China and South Korea less than two months after he joined the Government, it was revealed last night.

The Trade and Industry minister, who has substantial interests in biotechnology companies and who has denied taking part in official discussions of GM food policy, pressure to resign.

tember, the minister visited the Institute of Plant Physiolnology and Biological Sciences

Farmer

seeds of

change

By Charles Arthur echnology Editor

commercially in Britain. "We're terrified that some oad of eco-protesters are going to drive along the road, see these plants and think they're load of these Frankenstein "So we're thinking of labelling them to point out that this is not genetically modified. It's just soya. And it's the first time anyone has grown it in this country." Amidst the furore about GM crops and foods in the past week, the fact that nobody grows soya in the UK has gone argely unreported. Certainly. ew people have asked why it is the United States which is the ience responsible for the introduction of GM elements into foods such as cakes, biscuits and bread in British shops. "The reason is that before

ROBERT APPEL has one principal worry about being the

now, nobody had bred a strain of soya which would grow this

Appel, who is managing direc-

tor of his own seed firm, based

in Waltham Chase, Hampshire.

plant which has been cultivated

in China for about 1,000 years

and was brought to America and

Europe in the 19th century.

Today, the US grows more than

half of the world's crop.

Sova beans are an East Asian

SOWS

Research Council (BBSRC) and its counterpart in Korea

The research council is organising a follow-up trip which will receive sponsorship from the Foreign Office.

The revelation came at the end of a week in which Lord Sainsbury faced almost daily revelations about his links with the biotechnology industry. He has said he will stand aside from policy decisions on the issue but he does sit on a Cabinet sub-committee on the

Lord Sainsbury has been a the visit I signed an agreelong-term enthusiast for the enetic modification of plants. and has funded research on the subject, as well as owning companies which hope to exploit the

technology commercially. His charity, the Gatsby Foundation, funds the transfer of biotechnology to developing countries, along with the BBSRC and other bodies.

The chief executive of the BBSRC, Rob Baker, accompanied the minister to the Far East and described the trip in the council's newsletter.

were an important milestone in

ment with the Korean Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology to encourage collaborative links. Biotechnology was an important feature of the min-

isterial meeting," he wrote. Both Friends of the Earth and the Conservative trade and industry spokesman, John Redwood, who have formed an unusual alliance on the issue, condemned Lord Sainsbury's involvement in the trip.

Charles Secrett, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said full details of the trip should be revealed.

"In particular we need to

food and crops were discussed. Did Lord Sainshury run out of the door whenever the subject came up? The visit may be yet further evidence of an apparent conflict of interest. Lord Sainsbury may be the right man, but he is certainly in the wrong job" he said. Mr Secrett has written

details of the visit. Mr Redwood said the min-

to Tony Blair asking for more

I remember being told that Lord Sainsbury took no part in discussions on GM food. Now we see that he went, at the taxpayers' expense, to China to

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said there was no conflict of interest. The trip was to promote all types of science. "When it comes to making policy decisions which have a bearing on his interests that stand aside.

"That has only happened once, on 3 February at the biotechnology cross-departmental meeting. There is absolutely nothing which conflicts with Lord Sainsbury's

far from the Equator," said Mr Robert Appel prepares to sow the seeds of a revolution with the first soya crop to be planted in Britain

"Now a team in Finland has no genetic engineering was inmanaged to produce a strain volved in producing the new which will grow above 52 degrees north and below 52 south strain. "We have talked to a numof the Equator," explained Mr ber of food manufacturers and chicken and turkey producers. Appel. "We have been testgrowing it in New Zealand, and And the fact is that the first of in spring we will start sowing those white meat producers who can go and say that their an-

He is keen to emphasise that imals are fed on non-GM soya

is going to get a ton of business."

Certainly, any food processor or manufacturer trying to guarantee that soya bought from the US will not contain DNA from Monsanto's GM "Roundup Ready" soya, which is resistant to its Roundup herbicide, faces

a tough task. Earlier this week, Linda McCartney sausages and Iceland products bave been shown to contain at least traces of the Monsanto DNA. "I would doubt anyone's claims to have sourced non-GM soya from the

US," said Mr Appel. But can he be sure that

Russell Sach British-grown soya will compete on price with the enormous American producers, who farm thousands of hectares and shin

"Oh yes, absolutely," he said. "It will get a subsidy from Brussels. It falls under the same category as oilseed rape."

Rest of world eats up without a fuss

netically modified (GM) crops and food is echoed around much of Europe, as is the wary attitude towards them. But further afield, and especially in crucial countries such as the United States, Russia and China, the planting of transgenic crops is going ahead almost without raising any interest among the public.

The US spearheaded the wide-scale commercial planting of GM crops for eating with Calgene's Flavr Savr tomato, modified to keep fresh longer. American shoppers hardly noticed, and they have largely remained indifferent through the latest rows in Europe. That attitude was apparent in US coverage of this week's events in Britain: television reports inclusive of dinner, showed the sacks of GM soya deposited outside Downing bed and breakfast p.p.p.n. Street on Thursday, and their "based on 3 nights for the price of 2 reporters treated it like the British view of a French farmers' protest: old-fashioned. wasteful, slightly comic and.

when all's said and done, futile. Certainly China has welcomed transgenic crops in its efforts to raise the harvest. There is no mechanism for people to object - even if the underlying ssues were explained to them. In Brazil some farmers grow fumo louco - "crazy tobacco", genetically engineered by an American tobacco company to generate more nicotine. The shipment of the seeds to Brazil in 1983 broke US export laws, but the genie is out of the bottle: about half Brazil's tobacco exports are now from GM plants.

Similarly modified potatoes

THE BRITISH debate about ge- BY CHARLES ARTHUR AND MARY DEJEVSKY

> have been grown in Russia to elements and parasites. Speaking last year at the

World Farming Congress in May, Graham Blight of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, said: "People must realise that these GM [plants] are going to be part and parcel of agriculture production. There's something like \$18bn [£11.25 bn] worth of crops grown in the world from genetically engineered products."

But there is strong opposition. India is fighting to try to prevent companies like Monsanto from selling GM seeds to its farmers without careful regulation. Its fear is both that ancient forms of agriculture will be destroyed by modern practices. and that onerous contracts will reduce their farmers to penury.

Within Europe, Austria has repeatedly attempted to stymie the European Commission's attempts to license GM crops by exploiting the labyrinthine approvals process, under which novel crops and foods bave to be shown to have no harmful effects and to have benefits over those they might replace.

"Austria was the first country to react strongly, back in 1995 or 1996," said Doug Part, a campaigner for Greenpeace. "It culminated in a 'peoples' vote' ... in 1997, which came out against GM crops." But Austria's attempts at opposition have been steamrollered by Brussels, which has the legal process on its side. In Germany, opinion

does not favour GM foods either and in the past few years there has been a strong shift to organic foods mirroring that in Britain.

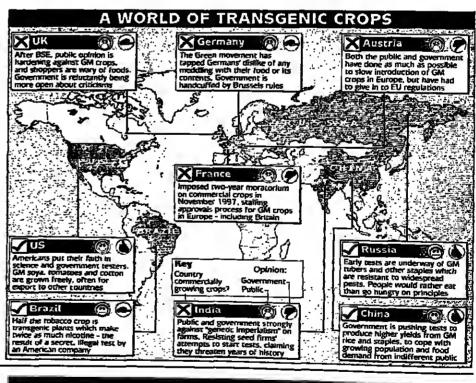
"Polling tends to suggest that ... people have become more sceptical," said Mr Part "Even Monsanto's attempts, where last year it spent firm on an advertising campaign in Britain, and found at the end that GM products were less rather than more popular, reflect that."
Yet while the GM debate has

raged in Britain this week, nobody has thought to thank the people and government of France. It is due to them that commercial growing of such croos has not begun already.

The reason is once more, the European approvals process. Plant Genetic Systems (PGS) was the first company to apply for commercial growing of a crop, GM oilseed rape. In 1995 it chose France as the test venue for the tests on human and animal food tolerance.

Every other country has now approved the crop. But in November 1997, amidst public noroar that GM soya from the US was invading its foodstuffs, France imposed a moratorium on GM crops. Without France's approval, PGS cannot get a licence for growing. And nor

can any other company's crops "The whole moratorium proposed this week by the British government on commercial planting is actually meaningess," explained Mr Part. "Until France approves the PGS plant, nothing can happen." Somehow, that fact has escaped the fact packs sent out to Labour MPs this week.



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THE INDIPINITIONS

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Students revolt against the NUS

A ROW has erupted between the By DARIUS SANAL National Union of Students and the University of Leeds newspaper, Leeds Student, which this week called for a nationwide campaign to oust the New Labour "cabal" from the NUS leadership. Its front-page story was headlined: "Cowardly cronies facing fierce rebellion."

The source of the row is simmering anger over the University's membership of the Union. Some students this former alma mater of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, believe they would be better off outside the organisation.

Leeds is not alone. The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology disaffiliated from the NUS late last year; Birmingham University students called a referendum on the issue last month, and students at Newcastle Uni- Socialist Workers' Party. versity are voting next month oo whether to disaffiliate.

The national body is viewed by some as, at best, an irrelevance and at worst a training ground for New Labour MPs. They argue that more should be across the country. done about undergraduate tuitioo fees and the abolition of

The last three presidents of the NUS, Stephen Twigg, Lorna Golf-and-Nokia set that Fitzsimmons and Jim Murphy, whose two-year periods in office collectively lasted from 1990 to 1996, are all now Labour MPs. Trevor Phillips, the broadcaster and London mayoral candidate, is also a former NUS president, as are David Aarooovitch, the broadcaster and Independent columnist.

And as student apathy deepens, the activists who remain

of tuition fees," says Helen Aspell, the chief finance officer of Leeds Student Union, which, with 25,000 members, is among the country's largest. "The executive has plenty of consulta-tioo with Millbank, and there's a feeling that if you make it in the NUS, the Labour party will look after you.

playing around with their po-

litical careers and get out and show students it can do something for them," says Ms Aspell, who is running to be NUS treasurer next month.

Helen Russell, the West Yorkshire convener for the NUS, says the national union was more active when the Conservatives were in power, despite Labour's introduction of fees. "It's just become a training ground for Labour MPs," she says, "it's the student arm of the Labour Party."

Andrew Pakes, the current NUS president, denies the allegations. "Those making them are generally my political opposition," he says. NUS officials also point out that the most vociferous opposition often comes from the "loony fringe" of the

But the view of the NUS as a kind of New Labour Komsomol is particularly disturbing as it comes at a time when there is one issue - tuition fees which could unite students

There is genuine concern, among students from all backgrounds, that future students will either be confined to the abounds in Leeds, or be too poor to bother about anything except surviving. "This is the time we really need an active national union, whatever our politics," says Ms Russell. It would also appear to be a time students need to have more to choose from than an apathetic silence or the SWP

Alex Gubbay, editor of Leeds Student magazine, says: "The are concerned that the once. NUS executive is fighting its radical NUS is being used as a - own private agenda; it should springboard for New Labour, be supporting free education for zealots scared to remonstrate "students. Students are comwith the government. pletely unrepresented by their "The NUS ducked the issue national union."

Susie Wallace, a 21-year-old final-year physics student at the University of Leeds, says: "Most of my friends back home in Northern Ireland won't go to university because they can't afford it. The NUS doesn't seem to have organised anything against tuition fees, and it's ridiculous, because it means "The executive should stop only the rich can come to uni-

Unhappy with NUS: Editor Alex Gubbay (right) with Lola Almudevar (left), Sian Martin and Susie Wallace

RADICAL TO MAINSTREAM



STEPHEN TWIGG NUS president 1990-1992 MP for Enfield

Twigg, 31, a graduate of Balliol, Oxford, seen as a model Blairite. Grandly ousted Michael Portillo from Enfield in 1997.



TREVOR PHILLIPS NUS president 1978-1980

Broadcaster Phillips, 44, Imperial College, London. graduate and prospective mayoral candidate for London, Peter Mandelson



LORNA FITZSIMONS NUS president 1992-

MP for Rochdale Fitzsimons, 31, graduale of Loughborough College, is very much a member of Labour's new model army.



JIM MURPHY NUS president 1994-1996

MP for Eastwood Murphy, 31, Strathclyde University graduate. Marginally the least "New" of the three MPs.

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Infant pupils may be set 60 objectives

CHILDREN SHOULD meet a BY BEN RUSSELL series of goals in the "Three-Rs" by the end of their first year at school, under proposed government guidelines published

More than 60 aims - including in writing, reading and mathematics - are laid out in a new "foundation stage" cur-riculum to guide children from the age of three to the end of their "receptioo year" (usually at age five). The guidelines, which are a

more specific version of earlier "desirable outcomes" for nursery schools and reception classes, are designed to provide children with solid basics before they start the full national curriculum in school. Some are aimed at children's social development, morals such as the difference between right and wrong, forming relationships, working in groups and being able to concentrate. But there are also specific and numerous goals in English and maths.

In English, the aims include linking letters and sounds, naming all the letters of the alphabet, and showing understanding of the main elements of stories. They should also be able to find information in nonfiction texts to answer questions such as "where, who, how

Aims for writing includes holding a pencil correctly and being able to write their names, simple words and sentences. The aims for mathematics in**Education Correspondent**

clude being able to count to 10, recognise simple patterns and use concepts like "greater than" or heavier and lighter.

Margaret Hodge, the minister in charge of early years education, said the reform "will help develop the key skills for learning, such as listening, speaking confidence with mmbers, concentration, persistence and co-operation7.

She said it was important to have clear goals for early education. "We are modernising the early years. We need to bring together play, care and education in a structured and rigorous way which is appropriate to the age of the child."

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Unioo of Women Teachers, said the guidelines were "over the top".

He said: "Not even old Joe Stalin was as prescriptive as this. The brightest children from the pushiest families will be able to cope, but there are some children who are not ready for this sort of thing".

Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, which drew up the proposals, said. "The pro-posals... set out high expectations whilst reflecting the particular oceds of very young children as they make their transition from home to school."













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Acid leaks on to protected marshland

ANTI-POLLUTION TEAMS from BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY the Environment Agency and English Nature were striving last night to contain a major leak of industrial acid onto a protected marshland which is a haven for wild birds.

A large amount of hydrochloric acid was discharged onto Greenabella marsh on Teesside from a factory belonging to Tioxide, an ICI subsidiary, which makes titanium dioxide, an ingredient of cos-Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest, a network of pools, marsh and mudflats in the Tees estuary a major wintering place for wading birds.

Greenabella marsh is an important haven for birds such as the curiew, redshank, teal and shelduck. It was feared the local invertehrate life, the shrimps, molluses and worms on which the hirds feed, could become contaminated with the

Environment Correspondent

acid and put the birds themselves at severe risk. The acid is believed to have

leaked into a stormwater drain and so out onto the marshland. which Tioxide owns. The company itself discov-

ered the leak and alerted the Environment Agency, whose officers spent yesterday supervising the pumping of metics. The marsh is part of the seawater onto the marsh, which by last night was successfully diluting the spill.

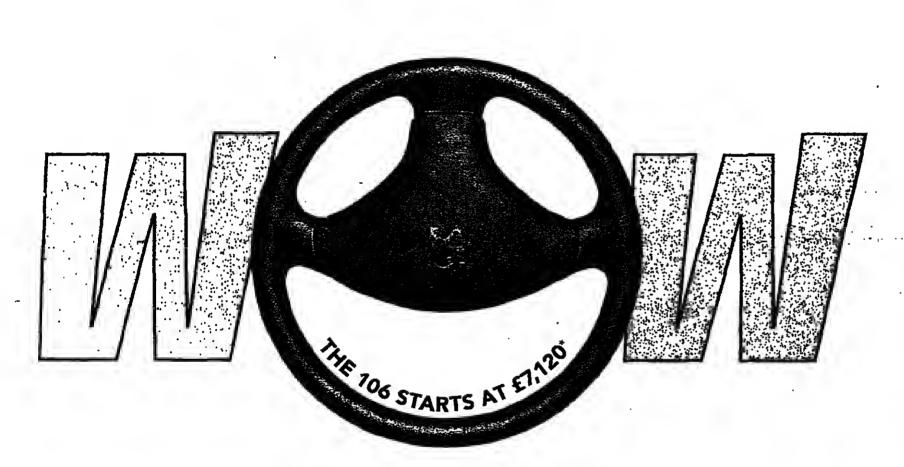
The work will go on over the ekend until the water scidity level returns to oormal.

Steve Hardy of the Environment Agency said it was one of the worst incideots he had attended. "The water was as acidic as you can get," he said.

Yesterday afternoon the first signs of dead invertebrates were seen but oo dead birds



In the shadow of the Tioxide chemical works on Teesside, an ecologist examines the damage done to marshland by a spill of hydrochloric acid



Police to scrap 999 call targets

A POLICE force is to abolish set BY JASON BENNETTO time targets for responding to emergency 999 calls after its chief constable condemned them as "misleading and

The targets will be dropped in Sussex from April after it was revealed that there were aimost two crashes involving police cars every day with a significant number taking place dur-

ng emergency call-outs. Paul Whitehouse, the Chief Constable of Sussex, said that the targets, which are monitored by the Audit Commission - which considers them a key ue to get to those calls which refactor in making forces more quire our immediate attendance accountable - put the public as fast as possible." and officers at risk.

He argued that some officers arrive at 90 per cent of incidents Hove, Eastbourne, Hastings and Worthing, and within 20 minutes elsewhere. The po-91 per cent of the cases.

In the 12 months to March 1998, there were 873 accidents involving police cars, which inciuded damage to vehicles police "performance indica-being chased. In almost 80 per tors" established five years cent of them - 701 - police vehicles were damaged. Three has called for national standard people died, 13 were seriously targets for emergency reinjured and another 36 hurt in sponses, which it believes are the accidents.

gets measured gets done and forces for setting targets that if you measure the speed, officers will get there with speed. They will see that as more im- to attend to 85 per cent of calla portant than anything else. made in urban areas within 15 They may then take their eye minutes.

Crime Correspondent

off the ball. The pressure on officers to drive fast can lead to them making errors. We think it's more important to deliver a quality service.

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"It's better to respond to an emergency call in 11 minutes and do it properly than try and get there inside 10 minutes and not do it properly. I'm in favour of performance indicators; it is the targets we are taking away."

He added: "We shall contin-

Sussex Police Authority has agreed to a request by the were taking unnecessary risks force to withdraw the targets just to beat the target times. In from I April In future, the Sussex, they are supposed to force intends simply to publish their performances without a requiring "emergency re-sponse" within 10 minutes if veys of emergency callers who they take place in Brighton, will be asked how satisfied they. were with the service.

Government figures estimate that the full cost to taxlice, exceeded their target last payers of each road death is year by responding in time in £1,042,000 including the time of police, hospitals and coroners, loss of earnings and legal fees.

The emergency response ago. The Audit Commissioo an important part of police Mr Whitehouse said: "What scrutiny. It has criticised some are easy to reach. For example, in Humberside they have only

IN BRIEF

Lawsuit over RAC windfall falls

A LEGAL action launched by disaffected overseas members of the RAC who were excluded from windfall payouts from the proposed sale of the roadside rescue service was dismissed yesterday by the High Court. The existence of the lawsuit was effectively blocking the sale.

Suit against Lord irvine 'politicai'

THE LORD Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, yesterday dismissed a race and sex discrimination case brought against him as "mischievous and political" and said he would not attend the hearing to defend himself. The action is being brought by two solicitors.

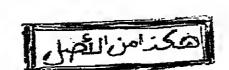
Nestle ice-cream nut warning

NESTLE ISSUED a warning on one of its ice-cream deserts after finding it had been contaminated with hazelnuts. It was told by a woman who had an allergic reaction to Lyons Maid New Cascade Toffee Ice Cream Dessert. She did not go to hospital and made a full recovery.

DNA test on feet identifies woman NEW DNA tests have positively proved the identity of a woman whose feet were the only body parts found after her sea suicide. Tests proved a genetic link with the feet of Clandine Payne, 28, and her mother.



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servation, but the longer you live in and do not leave the capital the easier it is to forget how much the rest of Britain has changed.

In London, you behave in old-fashioned ways. You take the bus (Is there any other place in Britain where the middle class still do this in substantial numbers?) or the Tube, you visit department stores with lifts, and single-screen cinemas are still located on main streets.

What Londoners call "the country", which in the London imagination includes country towns and indeed whole cities. is no longer like that Great straight roads filled with cars push through it. Mutliplexes and shopping parks stand ap-parently randomly, in the mid-dle of nowhere, but actually near a roundabout or intersection. The traffic seems just as heavy as it was an hour ago on the Westway - heavier

Ohviously nothing can be done here, not even the purchase of a pint of milk, without the door first getting into a car. You're entering Sussex but it could be New Jersey. And in this American analogy London also fits. Its way of living is coming to be as separate from the rest of the country as New York's is from the rest of the United States.

Or so I think, driving south through the rain on Sunday for a long half-term weekend at a friend's cottage in this place, "the country". We've driven for ninety minutes from home in north London and have still to meet it. We follow the A3 to the A243 and then the A24. Then I see a sign to the village of Mickleham, just below Box Hill, and remember that this was where my great-aunt lived and where she is buried.

I have been here only twice before, the last time 23 years ago for her funeral. There was some later controversy, I remember, about the inscription on her tombstone: "There shall be no more light". Surely that couldn't be right, in a Christian graveyard? And so we turn off to the village to take a look.

Sure enough, ooe letter in the inscription has been rechiselled and re-leaded: an "n" has replaced an "I"

night": a more optimistic view of the afterlife than that caused by a stooemason's mistake. I'm glad for my Great-Aunt Nellie's sake, and walking back towards the car I remember how I came to this place as a five-year-old.

She was then tso dates on the gravestooe tell me) newly widowed. Her husband had served in the army of British India. She lived in a cosy gatekeeper's cottage on what was then the main Dorking road and we were dropped at her front door by Green Line hus. There can't have been much other

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NOTEBOOK



traffic on the road at that time, because in the afternoon my fa-

ther took me for a walk down it. I remember drizzle and huge snails on the verges, and my father explaining that perhaps the chalk in the soil did that the calcium made their

shells grow hig. Other than that, I remember various shades of green: the green of the Green Line hus, the green of the meadows and the trees in the valley, the sudden sight of a green Southern train across the meadows sliding towards Dorking or London with a faint electric sizzle which

disturbed the quiet. Now the valley contains a dual carriageway as well as a railway line, and Dorking is a suburb with suburbs - which have almost reached my greataunt's old home. When we drove past it on Sunday, I noticed that its neighbour was a large car park.

These facts and memories are commonplace. England has nourished illusions about the countryside and regretted its damage since Ruskin. Writers such as Orwell and Laurie Lee have made whole meals of it. But oever before have I felt the force of a remark made by a friend of mine, the writer Tony Gould, a month or so ago. Tony comes from a farming family in Devon and we were having a fairly standard Loodon cooversatioo about the benefits (better schools, cheaper houses) of moving to "the country".

The worst thing about living there, he said, was how you were forced to ootice change. Fields minus hedges, moors minus sheep, closed shops, drunk or drugged kids, and bloody awful traffic jams around the oearest supermar-

Londoo has also changed, but in less depressing ways and "There shall be oo more in any case change is part of its nature. On Tuesday night, after driving against a long line of headlights stuck motionless across the South Downs, I was glad to he back inside its fierce and illusion-less grip.

> IN THE second section of today's Independent there will be, as usual, a handy guide to how critics in general (not just this newspaper's own) have

ical consensus is marked sym-

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This is besed on a female pon-smoker aged 27

between ecstasy and torpor. Sometimes she stands from

her chair and applauds (bravo, excellent!); sometimes she sits forward on her chair and applauds (good, enjoyable); sometimes she sits back oo her chair and doesn't applaud (mid-dling to poor); sometimes she's slumped almost flat on her chair and probably asleep (dire, wake me after the credits.

That might seem an adeuate scale of response, but I don't think so. The poor woman this victim of so much botched and painful enterprise in the name of art or entertainment. doesn't get mad enough. There needs to be two more categories, one for the stuff that makes you angry twoman throwing her chair, perhaps) and one for the stuff that makes you want to leave or switch off (an empty chair).

What has brought this nn? On Wednesday I went to see Life is Beautiful, the Italian film which has been nominated for seven Oscars, under the impression that it was brave, inventive, moving and (not least)

The Italian comic actor Roberto Benigni wrote and directed the film and stars in it as an Italian Jew, who, when seized and deported to Hitler's death camps, sustains his small son's innocence and will to live by pretending, comically, that the procedures of the Holocaust are a childish game.

That's the "brave" part: the juxtaposition of the two words "comic" and "Holocaust" in any description of the film. But the film itself is not brave at all.

Forget the Holocaust, the terrible non-fiction monster on whose back Life is Beautiful has fictionally, cheekily and sentimentally ridden its claims to fame, and you're left with the plot and characterisation (save excelleot performances by our hero's soo and uncle) of a Norman Wisdom film: Trouble at Treblinka almost.

The film is technically incompetent, structurally weak, directorially unimaginative. It sounds as though it was recorded in an empty church hall. The death camp looks like an abandoned textile factory set in some lovely Italian countryside, which is quite probably

As for the ever-present Benigni himself, he gets down oo his knees from the first minute and begs the audience to love him. Even Chaplin did oot push his endearingness so far and, naturally, it has the opposite effect. By all means save him from the train to Poland in the fiftieth minute, but let him vanish by pantomime hook in the

fifteenth. So the question the idea of the film asks - "Can you make a comedy about the Holoreceived new plays, films, books, CDs and so on The critcaust?"-can only be answered with "Well perhaps, but not on the evidence of this one." A bolically by a small silhouette



"There shall be no more night": Among the gravestones of St Michael's Church, Mickleham, Surrey

Peter Macdiarnini

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why I went to see it, and why millions of others will do the

You can't blame the critics. Since I saw the film I've caught up (too late) with the reviews. One or two are enthusiastic but an equal number are hostile. Many are sympathetically lukewarm variations of David Denby's verdict in the New

more pertinent question may be Yorker ("I wish I could say it was anything but a mistake"1. So why didn't I notice these reviews? Because I'm the victim of brilliant marketing

strategies which fill the hungry spaces of newsprint and broadcast time. The film had sneakily and impressionistically recommended itself to me via profiles of Benigni, interviews with his associates, features which put the pros and cons of breaking "the Holocaust taboo" - all prominently and fancily displayed (on the page, a review by contrast is a simple, humble thing) and all before the product itself could be honestly scrutinised by independent men and women whose judge-

ment we might trust. Certain generations (including miner often talk nns-

of PR inspired journalism talgically of the days of the "great critics": Ken Tynan, ("Come on set, meet the star!" Harold Hobson, Penelope Gilli which surround them. I tee! att. Clive James, and other sorry for their fall and promise writers who in their day were to pay them more attention often the best reason for In the meantime, an empty

buying a Sunday newspaper. chair to Life is Beautiful. I think this may well be unthough the Pone is reported to fair to the present lot, whose love it On the one hard, Robervoices could be equally strong to Benigni; on the other. Genand persuasive if they could be eral Pinochet. A pontiff of truly heard from under the blankets catholic taste.

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The Hair and the Tortoise wait on Wales

WHEN RHODRI MORGAN and BY PAUL WAUGH Alun Michael last competed against each other, in the London marathon, the maverick backbencher heat the current Secretary of State for Wales by more than an hour.

As the gruelling race to become Labour candidate for First Secretary of Wales reaches its climax today, they will be virtuthey stumble over the line.

Tony Blair will be sweating more than either of the contestants.

After three months of vitriol, back-biting and claim and counter claim, the party's choice to lead it into May's Welsh Assembly elections will finally be announced in Cardiff today. Labour officials will unveil the result in a hotel overlooking Cardiff Bay, the shiny new development and site of the Assembly that aims to symbolise the dynamic New Wales.

However, the outcome itself will be decided by a typically Old Wales Labour device of an electoral college that stacks up votes with a Byzantine complexity.

In a system that Michael supporters quaintly depict as reflecting the Labour "family", and Morgan supporters describe as a "stitch-up", the college is split

into three equal parts.

Political Correspondent

section, MPs, MEPs and Assembly candidates make up the second, while the humble individual party members make up the third. A combination of educated

guesses and declared intentions suggests that Mr Michael ally neck and neck this time as has won most trade union votes, an outcome confirmed by The only certainty is that the GMB's crucial backing for him yesterday. With the MPs and candidates section also likely to go, by a slim margin. for the Secretary of State, the deciding vote will be down to the 25,000 party members.

Mr Morgan is widely anticipated to come out on top among the grass roots, but he may need 70 per cent of the votes to win. The margin of overall victory could be 0.5 per cent. Or, as the candidate himself succinctly puts it, "as tight as a gnat's arse".

Since it was precipitated by Ron Davies's "moment of madness" on Clapham Common in south London last October, nothing about this contest has been straightforward. . Mr Morgan, MP for Cardiff

West, began as favourite after coming second to Big Ron in the leadership fight last year Quickwitted and always armed with Trade unions and affiliated a ready quote, polls showed

lar with the public than the dogged, taciturn Mr Michael. The cheery, garrulous Morgan approach was exemplified by his response to whether he

would stand again for the First Secretary's job: "Does a one-

legged duck swim in circles?" Renowned for his laid-back dress sense, Mr Morgan had even undergone something of a makeover to help his chances. His lumberjack shirts and tracksuits were swapped for neat jacket-and-tie combos. His trademark unruly hair, once a proud Afro to rival Don King's, was trimmed to respectability.

However, the great race of the Tortoise and the Hair soon descended into bitterness, with each side flinging mud enthusiastically about the other's tactics, character and ability.

Mr Michael, 55, was derided as a Taffy-come-lately, a man with little commitment or interest in Wales and devolution For his part, 59-year-old Mr Morgan was accused of being a "crypto-nationalist" after some of his supporters were alleged to have called for a break-

away Wales Labour Party. While the polls showed that most Labour members backed Mr Morgan, it became clear that the contest could be decided by the block votes of a handful of trade unionists. Those unions



Rhodri Morgan on a visit to a farm as he campaigned to be Labour's candidate for First Secretary of the new Welsh Assembly Rob Strutton

Local parties were also furious about the new list system for MEPs and the Assembly and were forced to accept candidates imposed by the party executive. Mr Michael became a candidate on the top-up list In

opposition of local members. When Mr Blair decided to make three trips to Wales to bol-Trade unions and affiliated a ready quote, polls showed who did ballot members inster the chances of his Welsh education and health, but with "If you've ever played rugby, over. "I have enjoyed it far
organisations make up the first that he was much more popuvariably came out for the Secretary, it became clear that so few powers available to any there's always going to be a lot more than I expected.

Mid and West Wales despite the

backbencher by huge margins. for the Labour leadership this future Prime Minister of Wales, local difficulty in an obscure internal party contest. It was a trial of strength for New Labour.

"It has been the worst combination of Old Labour voterigging and New Labour control freakery," concluded Paul Flynn, MP for Newport West.

Both men have tried to stick to meaty issues such as jobs,

was much more than a little the contest has inevitably centred on personalities.

His opponents claim that Mr Morgan is too much of a "clown", be is "unserious", "a sayer not a doer" who has no experience of running government. None of the barbs appear to have unsettled him. "I think you have to have broad shoulders in any election campaign.

of barging in the line-out and elbowing in the teeth," he explained. "But after the game you have to just go into the bar and have a pint with the person who thumped you. You forget all

about it over faggots and peas." On the eve of the all-important vote, Mr Michael also claimed to have enjoyed the contest, though he admitted he was "relieved" it was nearly

"The idea that I'm some sort of Downing Street poodle is totally untrue. Tony Blair knows that I can be a terrier

and I will fight my corner." When Wales meet Ireland at Wembley in the Five Nations this afternoon, both men will be settling down to watch the game on television. A meeting for a pint over faggots and peas is, however, as likely as onelegged ducks swimming in a

Six councils warned their libraries are sub-standard

CHRIS SMITH, the Secretary of BY DAVID LISTER State for Culture, has admitted that some of Britain's libraries are under threat. Yesterday Mr Smith wrote to 21 local councils demanding they im-

ernment in what is the National Year of Reading. For the first time all 149 local authorities prove their library services and have been obliged to submit

plans, and six others would be smaller libraries might be for Mr Smith is that one of the receiving written warnings.

Though the Government is not making the names of any of the offenders public, the six worst are understood to be: Barnsley, which is considering has threatened six with a full in-their future plans to the Govern the closure of all of its 23 branch vestigation by his department. ernment. Mr Smith said yes—libraries, retaining only a cen—The proposed cuibacks are—terday that 15 would be asked—tral, library and two mobile an embarrassment to the Coy—to carry and name work of their—libraries, Smithy where 25 of the

closed; and the Loodon borproposed closing libraries on weekdays; Brent, where up to House of Commons debate three libraries might be closed showed that nationally, 10 years and opening hours reduced; ago, more than 200 public Lambeth and Haritigey, which libraries opened for 60 hours or reducation as well as in tackling.

six worst offenders, Islington. oughs of Islington, which has contains his own constituency. Statistics given in a recent

have both proposed closing more. Today the number has social exclusion by giving declare some councils indefault. taking immediate steps to some libraries.

An added embarrassment number open for 45 50 hours access to new technology that and order them to restore cuts. In the situation in a constant of their statutory obligations. Investigate, the situation in a constant of their statutory obligations.

ties across the country, and the Government believes they have a key role to play as 'street corner universities' in promoting

has declined by 19 per cent. Mr they would not otherwise Smith said: "Local libraries lie have." He said most local at the heart of local communi- authorities had library services "we can all be proud of" but Smith said yesterday he would pledged to ensure that others provided a comprehensive and efficient service.

taken this course of action in regard to libraries, but Mr do so if necessary.

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Pinochet and policing prove tougher than yobs for Straw

NEXT WEEK will be a difficult one for Jack Straw - much more difficult than the comparatively easy time he has had over his proposals to lock up people with severe personality disorders or encourage the public to have a go at yobs.

First there will be the publication of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report, fol-lowed by the law lords' verdict on the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet.

The Lawrence report, expected on Tuesday, will herald a shake-up of the police in tackling racism. If the report finds that there have been serious cases of police misconduct, Mr Straw will face calls for the resignation of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon. At the same time Mr Straw will be pray-

ing that the Pinochet saga will finally come to an end, with the lords ruling that the former dictator is sent back to Chile. The Home Secretary is fed up with the issue dominating his in tray and, having already proved his credentials with

Labour left-wingers by supporting the earlier ruling, is now anxious for their lordships to give him a break. Apart from the issue itself, Mr Straw would also like to end the constant ha-

rassment by Lord Lamont of Lerwick, who yesterday elicited information that even the Pope has been lobbying the For-eign Office on behalf of the general.

Lord Lamont has been tabling irri-tating questions, including one about a visit made to Chile 33 years ago by Mr Straw, asking whether he engaged in any political activity while he was there. Lord Williams, the Home Office minister, replied that Mr Straw "at this distance cannot recall anything which could be defined as political activity".

But Lord Lamont is persistent, and ascertained that Mr Straw published an article, in October 1966, in Tribune on the prospects of reform under the then Chilean government.

THE POLITICAL fail-out on the genetically modified food panic fell equally on both main parties. William Hague, who started the scare a fortnight ago during Prime Minister's Questions, inspired John Redwood to score easy runs, initially, against the Department of Trade and Industry minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville. Mr Redwood worked relentlessly to bring into the pub-ilc domain a possible conflict of interest where Lord Sainsbury was concerned.

With Mr Redwood on the case there was a good chance the Tories might have drawn blood - and even another DTI min-



THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER MICHAEL BROWN

ister's resignation. But, concerned that Mr Redwood would get the limelight, the Tories foolishly went off on another tack by switching to the issue of food safety, setting up an unevenly matched parliamentary battle between their agriculture spokesman, Tim Yeo, and the wily Brummie food minister, Geoff Rooker, who knocked Mr Yeo for six by exposing the Tories' complicity in GM food development when they were in office.

Tony Blair badly misread public opin-ion and, echoing John Gummer, who tried to reassure public opinion by stuffing beefburgers down his six-year-old daughter, tried to claim that because he ate it, the funny food must be safe.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, craftily uttered not a word, neither in Parliament nor to the media, preferring to attend to his ministerial duties in Europe while letting Jack Cunningham take the strain oo the airwaves. But the pressure on the Government

to slow down the pace of GM food will build as Labour MPs are beginning to be overwhelmed by their postbags. The regular MP-baiters who write at

the drop of a hat are gearing themselves up to gum up the works of members' correspondence - the most effective way of getting backbenchers to run panicking

Mr Hague has proved how easy it is to start a food scare, but the real achievement is stopping one. That is the test now for Mr Blair and his ministers.

CONSERVATIVE WAY Forward and Aims of Industry are hosting a grand "International Free Enterprise Dinner" on 20 April to mark the 20th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher being elected as prime minister (tickets: £125).

Baroness Thatcher is said to be delighted that Sir Edward Heath has accepted an invitation, and to confirm that media stories of constant war between the two former prime ministers are invariably wide of the mark.

The two circled each other before exchanging pleasantries at last year's Tory party conference. Both agreed on the dis-comfort of being wedged into the infamous likes chairs, where they looked similarly fed up at the chaotic proceedings.

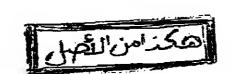
In fact there is more than grudging respect between the two old war-horses for speci between the two old war-norses for each other's longevity. It is often forgot-ten that they both began their political ca-reers together in Kent fighting nearby seats in the 1950 general election, when they spoke on behalf of each other in their spective constituencies.

The Baroness attended Sir Edward's party to mark his 40 years as MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup when she was prime minister. Sir Edward's recently pub-lished autobiography records a photo-graph of a dinner that Lady Thatcher held at Downing Street for the Queen in 1985. It was attended by the then five surviv-ing prime ministers, including Sir Edward.

NO FORMER Conservative MP has made it to the last seven in the race to be the Tory candidate for the super-safe seat of Leominster, where local Tories are looking for a replacement for Peter Temple-Morris, who defected to Labour last year.

Heading the pack is William Hague's back-room office boy 27-year-old George Os-borne. The others are Richard Bacon, who fought Vanctual last time: Richard Ashworth, who fought Devon North; Bill Wiggin (son of former MP Sir Gerry Wiggin), who fought Burnley; Hugo Swire, who fought Greenock and Invercive (nephew of the former minister, Sir John Nott), and Colonel

Patrick Mercer, seen as the local man. The smart money is on a fight to the finish between Mr Osborne and Colonel Mercer. The local party executive will whittle the names down to three next week, with a full ballot of party members on Friday 5 March



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SCIENCE



Dr Arpad Pusztai: forced to retire as the victim of a conspiracy or author of flawed research?

Pusztai: the verdict

GM food: safe or unsafe? First we must ask experts in this field how they rate the research work that led to this most recent controversy, says Steve Connor

- the scientist forced to retire over his public comments about genetically modified (GM) potatoes has become a cause celèbre with the environmentalists. He claims to have shown that GM food can stunt the growth of laboratory rats, harm immune system. If he is right, it represents a hammer-blow to the biotechnology industry, which is keen to exploit advances in genetics. If he is wrong, Dr Pusztai could be accused of whipping up public hysteria.

Last week, a group of 20 scientists signed a memo in support of Dr Pusztai, C stating that the Hungarian-born researcher stands fully vindicated. Dr Pusztai's data from experiments he conducted at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen clearly show, the memo says, that when laboratory rats were fed GM potatoes, their internal organs failed to grow fully and their immune systems were suppressed. They concluded that Dr Pusztai's research report would be acceptable for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

It is this last claim that has been put to the test by The Independent. Dr Pusztai's report became publicly available this week, and we asked one of Britain's leading experts, Professor Tom Sanders of King's College London, to comment on whether it would pass muster with genuine scientific referees. Professor Sanders concludes (see below) that Pusztai's work fails to reach a standard acceptable for a peer-reviewed journal. Science is only science if it has

passed through review by experts
fore being published in a journal. The 20 "experts", mostly from abroad, who signed the memo say Pusztai's research is of high quality. This is not the view of other scientists who saw it.

The story began in 1995, when the Scottish Office funded a three-year project involving three centres: the Rowett, Durham University and the Scottish Crop Research Institute. The aim was

he case of Arpad Pusztal to identify ways of making crops pestresistant, with minimium side-effects.

Dr Pusztai's role, as an expert on toxic plant proteins called lectins, was to undertake a series of feeding experiments using GM potatoes and laboratory rats. His particular interest was a lectin called GNA, found in the hulbs of snowdrops, which acts as a natural peshrain development and damage the hicide. According to Dr Pusztai's report no other lectin-producing GM plants were used in the experiments, although he does say he performed some "analytical" work with GM potatoes expressing another, more toxic lectin, Con A, from the jackbean plant

This is a key point because, according to an audit investigation into Dr Pusztai's work (ordered by the Rowett following his statements on TV's World in Action), he had become confused over whether he was talking about GM potatoes expressing GNA or ordinary pota-

reviewed journal, which we passed to Professor Sanders

Dr Pusztai fed the rats a diet of raw, baked or boiled potatoes. Some of the potatoes, he says, were genetically modified with the GNA lectin and some had GNA added to unmodified potatoes. A diet that solely consists of potatoes is so nutritionally poor that he sometimes added a protein supplement, otherwise the experiment would breach Home Office regulations limiting the suffering of animals. Two types of feeding trial took place: one over a 10-day period, the other over 100 days. His report states there was only one 100-day experiment, where extensive protein supplements had to be used. He found the liver weights of the animals in this trial actually improved when they were fed GM potatoes, and put this down to the protein supplement. Dr Pusztai said the long-term trial was only preliminary.

Dr Pusztai failed to win over experts, including his own colleagues, who were close to the research

toes which had Con A added to them in concentrations 5,000 times greater than would occur naturally. The audit, conducted by four scientists, two from the Rowett and two from outside, concluded that the only time the rats in the Pusztai experiment showed any signs of stunted growth was when they were fed Con A in these high concentrations.

Therefore, the audit committee is of the opinion that the existing data do not support any suggestion that the consumption of rats of transgenic potatoes expressing GNA bas an effect on the growth, organ development or immune unction." the audit report stated.

In answer to this criticism, Dr Pusztai compiled his own "alternative report" in which he details what he did and the results he obtained. It is this report, which his supporters claim to be of sufficient standard for publication in a peer-

It was one of the 10 day experiments code name D242 - where Dr Pusztai claims to have observed significant effects which indicate that GM food is dangerous. According to Dr Pusztai, rats in this experiment were fed GM potatoes. enhanced with the GNA snowdrop lectin, as well as ordinary potatoes and potatoes spiked with "free" GNA. Dr Pusztai claims the growth of rats was significantly reduced on a diet of boiled potatoes, and more so on one of raw potatoes, as expected owing to the low nutritional value of potatoes compared

with a high protein diet. "However, in this instance the difference between the final body weight and empty body weight of rats (accounting for food in the gut lumen) which were fed raw, transgenic potato diets as significantly higher than that of rats given diets containing the raw

cesses, and has acted as an expert reviewer for some of the leading

parent line. This again indicated that digestion and absorption of nutrients of transgenic potato diets was retarded in comparison with ordinary potato diets," Dr Pusztai writes.

A test of the rats' immune systems during this experiment also indicated that the animals fed transgenic potatoes were almost always more suppressed. Dr Pusztai claims that when free GNA was added to a diet of unmodified potatoes, he did not see this suppression. In other words, there was something about the act of genetic modification itself that has led to the effect he has observed. Environmentalists jumped on this as evidence that all GM food is unsafe.

Dr Pusztai's conclusions were unambiguous: "Four feeding trials were carried out ... In all four experiments, feeding transgenic potatoes to rats induced major and in most instances highly significant changes in the weights of some or most of their vital organs ... The growth rate of rats fed potato diets was slightly but significantly less than that of rats fed a high-quality control diet, but the presence of GNA, whether added to potato-based diets or expressed in the transgenic [plant] had no significant effect on weight gain and weight change

mpared to parent potato lines." Dr Pusztai's two outside collaborators at the Scottish Crop Research Institute and the University of Durham have distanced themselves from his conclusions, John Gatehouse, at Durham, is understood to be privately furious at Dr Pusztai's failure "to consider the most elementary tenet of science - that before one reaches a conclusion about cause and effect, it is necessary to demonstrate that causality exists'

Meanwhile, the four members of the original audit committee have looked at Dr Pusztai's alternative report and found that it is not convincing.

Dr Pusztai may have convinced the 20 scientists who signed the memo, and certain sections of the media, but he has failed to win over the experts - including his own colleagues - who are closest to the research.

Tom Sanders, professor of nutrition at King's College London, is one group is not given. ... Many of the reported differences are not of the most distinguished food toxicologists in Britain. He is a member of the Government's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Pro-

> lication in its current form. In my experience as an editor and reviewer it would be rejected by the British Journal of Nutrition, Journal of Nutrition and American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Although the report is of poor quality, the subject matter is novel an I would not to reject it outright even though the first three studies are fundamentally flawed in their design (deficient in protein). I would invite the author to respond to detailed criticisms and consider a revised version with more detail and suggest further studies, particularly with regard to the lymphocyte proliferation studies [a test of

How to get blood out of a bone...



The potential for transforming human cells sets Lewis Wolpert's pulse racing, in this, the first of his new columns

WOW! IT IS very rare that I have such a strong reaction to a scientific paper, a real surprise and a sense of astonishment. Most papers in the journals add to the body of knowledge and, while they can be very interesting, last time I had such a ago, when I first saw pictures of the zebra-like stripes of gene expression in the early fruit-fly embryo that foreshadowed the formation of the fly's body segments.

The new work comes from Italy and shows how cells in the brain are much more clever and versatile than anyone could have imagined.

During development of our brain, and that of all vertebrates, there is a layer of cells lining the wall of the tube that will give rise to the brain that gives rise to all the nerve cells, neurons, of the brain. These are stem cells. When they divide into two daughter cells, the innermost daughter cell becomes a neuron and migrates away from the wall. The other daughter cell remains attached to the wall and becomes now a mother cell as the process is repeated, and again the inner daughter becomes a neuron. Only recently has evidence been provided which shows that, even in the adult brain, there are still stem cells that can divide to give rise

to neurons. This has very important implications, as nerve cell themselves cannot divide to give more nerve cells, hut can only come from stem cells and these were thought to disappear when growth and development

were completed. There is thus in the adult brain the capacity to make new nerve cells, and so repair and replace nerve cells that may be lost due to damage or disease

There were also a few reports that things were even more remarkable, as muscle cells were observed in the brain and were quite common in a particular type of brain tumour. But muscle cells have a quite different origin from that of nerve cells. They come from a region of the embryo thought to be as different from that from which nerve cells come as a

Signals can transform one cell type into another

Sanskrit sentence is from one in English. Yet some cell biologists began to speculate that brain stem cells might have a greater potentiality for development than anyone had thought possible.

They therefore began to

grow stem cells from the

brains of mice. They did this by putting the cells in a dish with the right culture medium, where they multiplied. They then wondered if these cells could give rise to bloodforming cells that have an origin similar to that of muscle. Blood in all vertebrates comes from stem cells in, for example, the bone marrow. Stem cells there divide and give rise to all our red and white blood cells and are very active, as our red

blood cells bave only a life of a few weeks. If the division of these stem cells is blocked, by for example, X-irradiation, blood cell formation ceases with very serious consequences. But it is possible to rescue the situation by injecting stem cells from another animal. With a high-risk experiment – that is, with the chance of success being very low - the researchers injected the brain stem cells into the mice that had been irradiated to see if the brain stem cells could populate the bone marrow and, in their new environment, be persuaded to make blood cells. The mice did very well and, five months later, they had unequivocal evidence - the mice blood cells had come from the neural stem cells that they had injected. They were sure because the cells they had injected carried a molecular marker that made them distinguishable from those of the mouse into whom they had been injected.

the cells in the bone marrow instructed the neural stem cells to make blood cells. It is totally unexpected that signals exist which can transform one cell type into another -English into Sanskrit. But it opens up many exciting possibilities to manipulate stem cells

No one yet knows how

recently isolated from early human embryos. These cells were trumpeted as being the answer to various tissue replacement procedures. from heart muscle to insulin-producing cells and liver. I suspected there was more hype than hope, but this new work suggests I was rather pessimistic.



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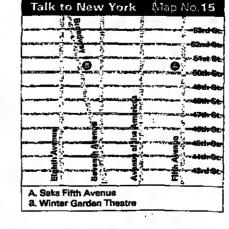
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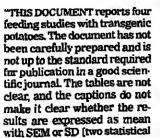
8.20am The Big Boys' Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari 10.20pm Dava Barrett

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or in calculating an average).
The food intakes are not adequately described - this data is essential for interpretation of the data. The dietary design of the first three studies is fundamentally flawed, as the diets did not contain adequate amounts of protein and the intake of nutrients and antinutrients differed between the transgenic and control animals.

ways of expressing the possible

"An intake of 100g protein/kg diet is regarded as the minimum amount for growing rats, and results in some degree of



tain protein at 200g/kg diet to

support normal growth. The

scientific journals in the field. This is an edited version of his peer review of Dr Arpad Pusztai's "alternative report", which environmentalists have used to support a ban on genetically modified food. to differences in protein intake. not analysed before the diets malnutrition, particularly when under stress such as pregnancy. Most commercial rat diets con-"It is unclear why a diet of raw potatoes was used, given

toxins. The study generalises protein?" first three studies use between 55.6 and 72.5g protein kg. This conclusions made from the use of raw potatoes to the use level of protein was not adequate to sustain normal growth cooked potatoes. and development in the rats. "It is well documented that The transgenic potatoes contained 20 per cent less protein leads to decreased growth rate, than the parent variety but it apchanges in gut morphology and hepatic atrophy features that pears no attempt was made to ensure that the protein content were observed in these studies. The report gives the impression of the diets was similar. Thus differences between the parent variety and the transgenic animals could be attributed

were formulated? And why was the lower protein cooteot in that they are renowned for the transgenic line not containing high levels of natural compensated for by additional

Professor Sanders casts doubt on the statistical analysis that led Dr Pusztai to conclude that the brains of rats fed protein malnutrition in rats GM potatoes were affected by their diet. "It is odd that differences in brain weight were reported, as hrain weight is generally not influenced by diet in adult rats," he says. "The stathat these dietary aspects of the tistical analyses is muddled. hoc. Why were the potatoes number of animals in each are unconvincing."

significant. "I would not recommend this paper be accepted for pub-

study were considered post. The tables do not indicate the the immune system], which

Frinton is braced for loosening of moral standards

A SMALL boy was flying his kite BY CLARE GARNER on the greensward as his grandfather leant on his stick and looked on admiringly. The beach huts were shut for winter and the evenly spaced wooden seats looking on to the North Sea were empty.

A (voical scene at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, albeit out of season. The picture is completed

when one goes inside the Maplin Hotel on the esplanade and asks for a drink. Frintonians would not be so foolish. Nick Turner, owner of the Maplin, bristled at the request. "No," was the short answer, followed by the fuller explanation:

"Here, a full licence is a pub -

a public house - which means the public can come into it." He did not have one - and nor would he want to. A pub in Frinton would change Frinton rever, he said.

A level crossing provides a symbolic barrier between Frinton proper and the modern part of the town. "Inside the gates," as locals like to say, is the "holy part of Frinton", where all vulgar aspects of modern life have been resolutely resisted. Indeed, if Winston Churchill was to return today, he would be hard

the seaside resort where he holidayed during the world wars. However, after Tendring Council's decision to allow JP

pressed to find any changes in

Wetherspoon to huild a pub on the town's main street, anything could happen. Or so Frintonians

The living is easy at Frinton-on-Sea in Essex - just do not ask for a drink. There are no pubs and the locals want to keep it that way

Roy Caddick, 63, the secretary of the Frinton Residents' Association, described the day that the Wetherspoon proposal was accepted as the worst in Frinton since "the Luftwaffe beat up the town in 1945".

Subsequent word from nearby Braintree has reinforced his opinion. "A Wetherspoon pub has opened in Braintree and residents absolutely dread Friday and Saturday nights now. The youngsters descend on the town, tank up on cheap

beer and cause mayhem." he

there's vomit on the pavement the next morning. People don't have a drink in Frinton, but at least we don't get riots and all the other awful things that you read about elsewhere."

Win Shelton, 78, a longstanding member of Frinton's town council, is equally apprehensive about the "late hours activity". She said: "You know, said. They slam car doors, they roar up the street, and we haven't got all the razzmatazz that other places have. It's a haven. We don't have the

> JP Wetherspoon is anxious to allay the town's fears. The pub will be "straightforward and gimmick-free" with no music whatsoever, live or background. There will be wheelchair access and "nothing going on inside", said a spokesman.

candy floss or amusements."

But no amount of pandering is going to change the minds of planning to take their "case of injustice" to the local govern-

John Lowe, landlord of the Essex Skipper, situated "out-side the gates", and a selfelected founder member of the Fossils (Frinton-on-Sea Invisible Landlord Society), does be a damn good idea,"

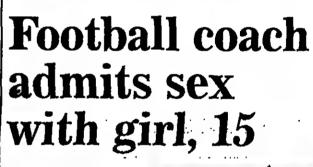
not feel threatened by the arrival of a Wetherspoon pub. "If they've got a better cook

than my missus I'li jack it in because I know they don't," be said. "I don't like the concept that you buy cheap, sell cheap and sod everyone else."

His pub has a dart board, jukebox and fruit machines and welcomes families (unlike Wetherspoon pubs).

The fact that the new pub will have "nothing going on inside" was no cause for cheer, he added. "It's just cheap beer and nothing else; it's not a community service."

However some residents even some elderly ones - believe that the Frinton known to George Bernard Shaw and Edward, The Prince of Wales, and Mrs Simpson should wake up to the 20th century before the the elderly residents, who are 21st arrives. The town described by Ursula Bloom, who also wrote under the name Lozania Prole, in her book Rosemary for Frinton, is laughably out of date. "I think we should have the pub," said George Francis. "It would revitalise the town, which would



CHELSEA FOOTBALL coach Graham Rix was warned by a judge yesterday that he faced imprisonment after admitting year-old girl.

The 41-year-old former Arsenal and England star, who has been married for 17 years and has four children, admitted one charge of having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl and one of indecently assaulting her in January last year But he denied two further counts of indecently assaulting her.

The prosecution accepted the not guilty pleas at yester-day's hearing at London's Knightsbridge Crown Court and the case was adjourned until 26 March to await the

preparation of reports.

Renewing Rix's bail on condition that he did not contact the girl or her family "either directly or indirectly", Judge Tunothy Pontius told him: "The fact that I'm about to release you on bail and the fact that I have ordered a report should not for a moment be taken by you as an indication of the sentence you will ultimately receive.

"Because of the gravity of these offences. I must keep all my sentencing options open and they include, perhaps in

the forefront, imprisonment. Rix, of Richmond, southwest London, who was capped



Graham Rix: Released on bail to await sentencing

Chelsea's expensive line-up of foreign stars. He is assistant to the former Italian international Gianluca Vialli. Laura Cohbs, for the pros-

ecution, told the court that Rix's guilty pleas were acceptable to the Crown. It was not intended to proceed with the remaining allegations, which would now "lay on the file". Desmond de Silva QC, for

the defence, told the judge that Rix was of hitherto impeccable character, and added that he felt the court would be assisted by a pre-sentence report in "this exceptional case". The judge agreed and put the case back for five weeks. Rix then left the dock to see a probation officer.

The maximum sentence for for England 17 times, is regard-having unlawful sex with a girl ed as one of the country's top under 16 is two years and for coaches and helps to manage indecent assault 10 years.

Politicians top of bad breath league

POLITICIANS AND lawyers By CATHY COMERFORD may be blessed with the gift of the gab but many have bad

Professor Mel Rosenberg a microbiologist, told a British upon-Avon. Warwickshire Dental Association conference yesterday that politicians, lawyers, judges. MPs and teachers were more likely to have time of moult because they were forever talking.

Their mouths dry out as they talk and when your mouth dries out, the saliva, the body's mouthwash, cannot carry away

More than 100 dentists attended a seminar given by the upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Professor Rosenberg has Salatespea e, who wrote a lot about good and bad breath, may have suffered from it. He said: "Although the causes of the condition are still uncertain today, primitive health care the bacteria. Also the movement during the 16th century would of the tongue airs the smelly mean many may well have suffered the condition."



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THE COUNTY NOTING



A McQneen show: the designer wants to boost US sales

Hype is out of style in London

LONDON FASHION Week kicks BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL off this weekend and while, for the past few seasons, Britain's fashion capital has managed to live up to the hype of recent years, this season the future

The Cool Britannia moniker is nothing short of derisory these days. Yesterday's decidedly uncool press call, the brainchild of the beleaguered British Fashion Council (BFC), featuring Wonderbra model Adriana Sklenarikova with "I love London" emblazoned across her bra and shorts, with over-stated reports in the press of a mass exodus on the part of our designers to more lucrative and sunny climes (Milan and New York, to be precise) has only fuelled speculation that there are bad times

Fashion Editor

- has decamped to Milan; as an established designer. He is not unwise to have moved on to a more commercially motivated fashion capital. Vivienne Westwood showed her Red Label diffusion line in New York last week. She did so more to publicise the opening of ber new shop there than because of any antipathy towards London, where she continues to live and work. Philip Treacy also showed in New York, although didn't help much. This, coupled he will show in London next week also. He has done this once before. More serious, however, is the fact that Alexander McQueen, it was yesterday confirmed, will almost certain- Paris once they had outgrown ly be showing in New York next the still relatively small busi-

Antonio Berardi - it is true business there," said a Mc-



Queen spokeswoman, "We do well in New York and in Los Angeles but so far there's very little happening in between.

She stressed, though, that London-born McQueen would be returning to London the season after that.

This is not the first time our big-name designers have moved on, however. Most famous was the departure of John Galliano to Paris in the early Nineties. Katharine Hamnett, Rifat Ozbek and Westwood again all left London for ness infrastructure that sup-

made way for younger designers, McQueen included, to make their mark.

More than any other fashion capital, London is famous for showcasing fledgling design talent, too raw to penetrate the still far more bourgeois fashion capitals of Milan, Paris and New York

> To this end, next week's series of shows includes an unofficial schedule that boasts names like Shelley Fox. She is the recent recipient of the first Jerwood Fashion Prize, the largest award of its kind to date and a business back-up for designers. There is also a

sign assistant at Clements Ribeiro and also a Jerwood finalist.

On the official schedule, meanwhile, Robert Cary-Williams, Tristan Webber, Seraph and Mulligan are all names to watch.

Despite rumours otherwise, Hussein Chalayan - expected to win British Designer of the Year-is showing in London for now. This, coupled with showings by more established names - Ghost, Paul Smith, Betty Jackson and Jasper Conran, to name just a few - makes London more than worth looking at.

Simon Wilson, chief execu-What's more, their departure Lupfer, who was formerly a de- "We are hoping that overseas made up until now.

attendance figures will be higher than ever this season - 2,000 press and buyers are expected to come through the doors,"

Among them will be Ameri-

can Voque's Anna Wintour, flying in for this season, as well as senior buyers from both America and Europe. More good news comes from Vidal Sassoon, who announced

last week that he will continue to sponsor London Fashion Week for the next five years, to the tune of £2,2m. By international standards, it may still be early days for

London but it would be wise for people to allow it to build on the d vesterday: considerable impres



Chunnel 'hard man' to be rail troubleshooter

mer "hard man" in charge of Chief Political Correspondent Eurotunnel, is expected to be appointed by John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, to bead a new stratehigher standards on Railtrack. said.

Sir Alastair, who also acted as a consultant to Peter Mandelson on the Millennium Dome project in Greenwich, south London, is being brought in to tackle the dismal record of Railtrack under its chairman Sir Robert Horton.

Mr Prescott has called a order Railtrack and the privatised rail companies to improve their services. Sir Alastair, 61, established a

reputation as a hard-hitting executive with a record for fighting for the interests of the small shareholders when be was cochairman of the company that built the Channel Tunnel.

In Whitehall, Sir Alastair is regarded as a "big animal in the jungle" who will be strong enough to take on Railtrack. He is privately compared to

SIR ALASTAIR Morton, the for- BY COLIN BROWN

Chris Woodhead, the bead of the schools inspectorate, for sistently in many areas, parinsisting on higher standards. ticularly its Great Western "He will be able to put Zone, covering Sonth Wales gic rail authority to enforce some stick about," one source

> Sir Alastair will take up his duties in April, and the new strategic authority for the rail services - backed up by legislation - will give him wideranging powers to raise performance levels. Mr Prescott, who has at-

tacked the privatised railway rail summit for 25 February to services as a 'national disgrace", believes raising standards is vital if be is to succeed in encouraging more motorists to leave their cars at bome. A damning report on Rail-

track will provide plenty of ammunition for Mr Prescott at next Thursday's summit. It accuses Railtrack, which runs the track services used by the rail companies, of failing to invest effectively in modernisation and questions the direction of its planned £17bn investment project over the next 10 years.

to deliver on its commitments, the report is expected to claim that it has failed to invest conand the South-west.

Railtrack's profit forecast this year has risen to £400m, with access fees of £2bn a year from the rail companies.

The report, by the management consultancy Booz Allen and Hamilton, was commissioned by the rail regulator last year to review Railtrack's performance, and bas sparked speculation in the City that Mr Prescott may order Railtrack to reduce its payments to sharebolders to invest more in raising standards.

He could reduce the access charges Railtrack levies on the train operators with a regular six-monthly performance

Railtrack said yesterday that Sir Robert would respond to the criticism next week when the report is published, and be is expected to come out fighting. Railtrack claims the number of



Alastair Morton: 'Big animal in the jungle'

train delays for which it can be sultants' report says most of the blamed has fallen by 40 per improvement was achieved in cent, but the management con-

the first year

'Stop using historic locos' says Railtrack

THEY MAY bring a tear to the BY PHILIP THORNTON eye of the trainspotter but the sight of retired locomotives pulling passenger services has made Railtrack see red.

Train companies have been told to stop using "beritage" diesel engines to cope with the growth in rail travel and make risk on the network." Railtrack said mode up for a shortage of rolling stock. The increasing number of preserved trains normally found on private railways or in museums being used for regu-lar timetabled services has prompted Railtrack to impose a moratorium. It said operators were putting rail safety at risk by hiring museum pieces for regular use without getting the necessary approval

It is understood that three companies have been hit by the ban, although other operators are using heritage diesels with Railtrack's agreement. In one case, passengers had to endure unheated carriages after the train company was stopped from using a heritage engine.

A company spokesman said: "Railtrack has become aware of an increasing trend in the use of heritage rail vehicles on reg-

ular scheduled passenger services. [It] is concerned about the impact that this growing trend may have on the overall

Railtrack said modern trains were safer than older ones, which were taken out of service to improve safety. "A trend in reintroducing de-registered vehicles on regular scheduled services would inhibit, and may even reverse, this incremental safety improvement." The company, the custodian of railway safety, has to approve each operator's operation - known as

the "safety case". The problem arises when firms use locomotives not mentioned in the safety case. Railtrack said it would not accept any requests to run beritage locos on scheduled services for six months while it consults with the industry.

But the train companies say Railtrack is behaving anti-com-

rolling stock and run shorter

trains. They accuse Railtrack of inconsistency in banning the regular use of Class 50 engines, which were built in 1968 and only taken out of service in 1994, but allowing the use of 1957-built trains, Cardiff Railways said it had to hire trains without proper heating after Railtrack told it to stop using a 1968 locomotive. The ban has since been lifted Anglia Railways has agreed not to use a Class 55 Deltic.

Alun Rees, general manager of the private Severn Valley Railway, which leased the Class 50 to Cardiff Valley, said he backed methods to maintain safety: "We have no intention whatsoever... to dilute safety but Railtrack's current stance

is neither logical or helpful." The preserved-railway community is angry with Railtrack and one member said it risked getting into "legal hot water" by implying some locos were un-safe. "What is heritage traction? If a 1968 Class 50 is banned but a 1957 diesel multiple unit is petitively by forcing them to running around on daily service search for spare, often inferior, in the North, then the distinc-

tion is meaningless.



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Clinton rai daims Ark Kurd outrage: Angry demonstrations across Europe over Ocalan's capture while London protesters appear in court

Embassy siege: 79 facing charges

three-day siege at the Greek embassy m London were all charged with violent disorder last night. Scotland Yard said those arrested, including at least four women and a number of asylum-seekers, would appear before Horseferry Road magistrates' court in central

GE CHOICE OF MULTIMEDIA PO

The move follows angry protests from Kurdish campaigners after the occupiers were detained under antiterrorism legislation as they emerged from the embassy in Holland Park shortly after 2pm on Thursday.

Meanwhile in Berlin, about a dozen Kurds laid a wreath outside the Israeli consulate. where three Kurds who tried to storm the building on Wednesday were shot dead by Israeli security guards.

Representatives of the group then spoke with the Israeli ambassador, Avi Primor, Mr Primor said afterwards

that there was "no feud" between Israelis and Kurds, blaming "some kind of misunderstanding" for the rumours that set off the attempted occupation.

In Amsterdam today up to 4.000 Kurds plan to demonstrate against the seizure of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who is in a Turkish jail. Yesterday, a group of 44 Kurds arrested earlier this week after taking over the Greek ambassador's residence in The Hague stood trial on charges of unlawful detention of individuals, illegal entry and the destruction of personal property. Each faces

yesterday in support of Mr Ocalan, burning the Turkish flag in the Lebanese capital Beirut, attacking Turkish trucks in Iran, and causing

Lebanese parliament and prime ministerial offices in Beirut, demanding that the government intercede with Turkey to set Mr Ocalan free.

Lebanon, where his group had was last seen in Lebanon in 1992 at a guerrilla training

In Nicosia, Cyprus, about 300 demonstrators waving PKK flags and chanting "Free Ocalan" marched through the city centre, bringing traffic to a standstill for an hour, Earlier, some 100 Kurds ended a hunger strike outside the Greek embassy. Before dispersing, they delivered a letter to the embassy demanding Mr Ocalan's release in the name of the PKK's political wing, the National Liberation Front of

Greek Cypriot political leaders visited the protesters outside the embassy to express

In Tehran, more than 2,000 Knrds stood outside the Turkish embassy, shouting "Turkey, we will burn you!" The protesters then marched through the Iranian capital. Elsewhere in Iran, 3,000 Kurds staged a demonstration in Mahabad, a city close to the border of Iraq up to 15 years in prison if and Turkey that was proclaimed the capital of Kurdistan

traffic chaos in Cyprus.

An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 protesters marched on the

Mr Ocalan is well-known in training camps in the 1980s. He



Kurds confront Romanian police yesterday as they tried to march on the Greek embassy in Bucharest to protest at the seizure of Abdullah Ocalan

Ocalan's Greek comedy of errors

THE GREEK Prime minister, By PAUL WOOD Costas Simitis, was at a social occasion when a colleague came to whisper the urgent message that Abdullah Ocalan had been smuggled into the country, according to the gossip among

Athens diplomats. The messenger was sympa-thetic to the Kurdish cause and wanted to know what Greece could do to help. Mr Simitis "nearly fainted with shock", one onlooker said. The anguished Prime Minister reportedly declared: "Don't do this to me!" before ordering that Mr Ocalan be

in Athens

Turkish hands, Mr Ocalan's search for political asylum saw him in Moscow, Rome, Minsk, Belarus, Athens and Corfu; and St Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod. He had tried also without success to go to Paris, Bonn, Oslo, Stockholm, Bern, the Netherlands and Kiev.

Greece's effort to find him a haven began with a private citizen, Andonis Nazakis, a retired Greek naval officer with ties to the Kurdish rebels. Mr Nazakis Before finally falling into 29 January on a private plane.

Greek intelligence agents then took over and, according to some reports, acting on the Prime Minister's orders, they put Mr Ocalan back on the aircraft on 1 February, and it took

off for Rotterdam. Mr Ocalan thought he could arrive at the International Court of Justice in The Hague and argue the Kurdish cause. But he never landed. The Dutch turned his aircraft away, and it went back to Greece,

landing on the island of Corfu. Greek Foreign Ministry officials then took charge and sent African country, What is known of the story of how Mr Ocalan was captured in Kenya sometimes reads like the plot of a bad spy novel. The first error made by the Greek security and foreign services supposedly looking after the Kurdish Workers'

him to the Kenyan capital, where the United States has maintained a intelligence presence ever since its embassy was bombed.

Diplomats say Mr Ocalan was detected by an American removed as quickly and as quiarranged for Mr Ocalan to fly Mr Ocalan to a Greek embassy his mobile phone. Negotiations gotiations with the Kenyans.
etty as possible. from St Petersburg to Athens on property in Nairobi, where he between Mr Ocalan and gov"He was used to giving the could seek safe haven in a third erument ministers in Athens orders and wouldn't take any Greece, into the bargain.

Party (PKK) leader was to send

were also said to have taken from us," said the Greek Forplace on an open telephone line, with the Turkish security services listening in. Mr Ocalan reportedly de-

manded a false passport, money and an aircraft to take him to the Netherlands for another try at the international court. He appealed again for asylum in Italy. France, Greece or Russia, or even a trial in Germany. It was during these negoti-

ations last weekend that he lost patience and took the path which led to his downfall. He "He was used to giving the

eign Minister, Theodoros Pangalos, who was sacked on Thursday, "He rejected our advice and started talking. Mr Ocalan left the Greek

embassy for the airport, followed by the Greek ambassador. Both thought the waiting aircraft would take Mr Ocalan to the Netherlands. Then Mr Ocalan's car "peeled off down a side street" - a result of Turkish infiltration of the scheme. Turkish commandos had flown into Nairobi for a mission codemed Safari and they bagged their big game - inflicting hu-miliation on the ancient foe,

Britain pledges troops for Timor peace-keeping force

BRITAIN HAS offered to send troops and money to East Timor for a United Nationssponsored peace-keeping force. The troops would be deployed in the event of an Indonesian withdrawal, which might take place by the end of this year.

News of the offer was given by Jose Ramos Horta, overseas spokesman for the Timorese resistance, in an interview with The Independent yesterday in Hong Kong. He said Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister responsible for Asia, had written to Xanana Gusmao, leader of the Timorese resistance, two days ago.

According to Mr Ramos-Horta, Britain is one of the first powers to pledge support for a force which would help the former Portuguese colony prepare for independence. The letter was delivered by Britain's ambassador in Jakarta to the house where Mr Gusmao is being held after his release from prison a week ago. "I'm very confident that the

United Kingdom would be a major contributor to Timor," said Mr Ramos-Horta. He had special praise for the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and the Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, who, he said, were "very sensitive towards East Timor and very aware that they have to make up for Britain's arms sales to Indonesia".

Mr Ramos-Horta also noted Mr Fatchett's close involvement in the Timor issue, saying he had visited Mr Gusmao three times in the past year.

Next week talks are due between the foreign ministers of Portugal and Indonesia and Jamsheed Marker, the UN Secretary-General's special representative. They are trying to reach agreement on how the Timorese people will be consuited on plans for autonomy.

"We remain poles apart on this crucial issue," Mr Ramos-



Robin Cook's support

Horta said. "Jakarta refuses to have a referendum on selfdetermination." This is supported by the Portuguese and most UN members.

Indonesia is saying that if the Timorese reject its proposals for a degree of autonomy with-in the Indonesian state, they will pack up and leave by the end of the year.

Jakarta has been supporting

paramilitary gangs which have

started raising the temperature in Timor. It is for this reason that a UN-sponsored peace-keep-

ing force is being considered. Besides Britain, there have been pledges of support from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the Nordic countries. Portugal has even promised to underwrite the entire opera-

The United States has yet to commit itself, although Stanley Roth, Assistant Secretary of State responsible for East Asia. is in close touch with Mr

Ramos-Horta and Mr Gusmao. There are fears that a rapid end to the 23-year Indonesian occupation of East Timor would give way to chaos.

Mr Ramos-Horta says he is working to shore up international support for a new independent state and to enlist a high-powered team of international economic advisers. The team will be chaired by Eric Hotung a Hong Kong tycoon, and will include the financier

'Clinton raped me in hotel,' claims Arkansas woman

HIGHLY DAMAGING allegations concerning President Bill Clinton's past finally appeared in America's mainstream media yesterday, after months in the shadowy realms of the Internet.

The Wall Street Journal, which pursued a fiercely anti-Clinton stance throughout the impeachment proceedings, devoted most of its editorial page on Friday to an Arkansas woman's graphic account of a sexual assault by Mr Clinton.

The article reports Juanita Broaddrick's claims of her rape by Mr Clinton 20 years ago. when he was attorney general of Arkansas. According to Ms Broaddrick she was attending a conference in Little Rock

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

in Washington

Arkansas where he was speaking. They arranged to meet for coffee. He suggested that her room would be quieter than a noisy coffee shop, and she agreed. In her account, they were looking out of the window: he put his arm around her, ositioned her, forced her on to the bed and had sex with her.

He bruised and bit her lin. then suggested an ice-pack to reduce the swelling. Ms Broaddrick says she was pained and shocked, but never brought charges because he was the state's chief law officer and had ambitions to be governor.

Ms Broaddrick was one of the women summoned to testify in the sexual harassment suit brought against Mr Clinton by Paula Jones, but she signed an affidavit denying that the incident happened - an affidavit she has subsequently refuted.

She also denies rumours

that her husband was paid not to divulge the story. However, the similarities in approach, if not outcome, between Ms Jones' account and Ms Broaddrick's, made

Ms Broaddrick's evidence highly relevant to that case. Although there were rumours of the attack circulating around the time of Mr Clinton's first presidential campaign, Ms Broaddrick remained silent, until row. Last month, she was interviewed by NBC but the tape was kept under wraps according to some because of White House pressure.

Clinton supporters maintain that the revival of Ms Broad-drick's accusation is just one more aspect of the "right-wing" conspiracy against him: having failed on the impeachment front, they say, his enemies are looking for other ways of discrediting him.

But the extent to which Mr Clinton's past is bound up with contemporary politics, suggests that the truth may never be known - and would not change anything if it were.





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The last film tsar of all the Russias

AT LEAST 6,000 people will BY PHIL REEVES today gather in the Kremlin for in Moscow the world première of a film that is not only the most expensive night if Boris Yeltsin will take in Russian history, but which also sets out to work a miracle Naina, is expected. - to lift Russia out of its post-Soviet decline, bring back its an unprecedented figure in the émigres, and recoocile its Russian movie industry. Most divisions.

rare taste of Hollywood in the tor Nikita Mikhalkov, who won middle of a long winter, made an Oscar in 1995 for the classic bleaker than ever by an un- Burnt by the Sun, but who won shakeable economic depres- acclaim long before for movies sion. Memories of August's including Slave of Love (1976) crash - which destroyed the and Oblomov (1979). It stars emerging middle class and wiped noughts from the bank balances of oligarchs - will be tonight's fur-wrapped parade of temporarily suspended, at least by the gilded few.

Siberia include Alexei II, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church; Russia's ascendant Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov; the film director Steven Spielberg; and a long list of leading lights from politics, diplomacy, journalism

up his invitation, but his wife,

The film cost \$45m (£28m), of it was raised in the West. It It will be a gala occasion, a is the work of the actor-direc-Richard Harris and Julia Ormond, who are also expected at the great, the good, and notso-good. The moustachioed These are various. Those invited to view The Barber of a cameo part, as Tsar Alexander III.

This is apt. These days, Mikhalkov, 53, is oot only a giant of the Russian film industry and its chief international advocate. He is also a figure on the political landscape, tirelessly preaching



Julia Ormond with Alexei Petrenko in a scene from 'The Barber of Siberia', directed by Nikita Mikhalkov, above right

include a constitutional monar-chy, politics by "evolution not running for the presidency. No revolution", Russian Orthodoxy and the urgent need to restore

press fell on them, eagerly fac-He recently revealed that he toring him into the endless national debate about Mr matter that his remarks looked Yeltsin's successor.

But Mikhalkov is not waiting for any ballot. He has flirted suspiciously like a pre-launch

with the electorate before, winning a partiamentary seat in 1995 under the list system as a member of the government party, Our Home is Russia. (He turned it down, despite having.

to be an MP) The movie itself is his vehicle, his outlet for intense patriotism - a trait shared with his father, who wrote the words to the Soviet national anthem

"When Italy lost the war its movie-makers raised the country from ruins," Mikhalkov said this week. "People paid their last pennies to see films because they gave them hope and strength ... I want the people who emigrated from Russia to see my film. I want them to return to raise the country up with their hearts, their labours and their minds." Spoken like a patriot, a man

who - as a genealogical chart on his office wall reportedly reveals - can trace his lineage to Catherine the Great. No surprise, then, that he will toast his film in the post-screening banquet with the words "To the Fatherland" to the music of Glinka's "To the Glory of the

But tonight's event has another dimension, valued by this struggling society. It will be brandished as further evidence that Russia's once-mighty film erly Hills would love it. But will industry - after years in the dol-

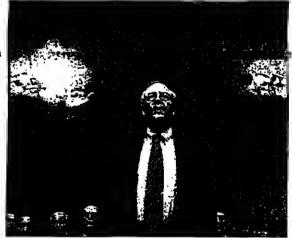


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covery has been painfully slow. The first major modern cinema complex did not open in Moscow until 1996. The country's 2,000 other urban cinemas are all too often dingy, pungent and empty. In 1996, only 20 films were released in Russia. a dismal level only previously matched in the last repressive years of Stalin, Last year, that figure rose to 46. It is, at least,

Whether Mikhalkov ultimately succeeds in his aim of currying up the battered Slavic sense of pride is uncertain. It may not be as easy as he thinks. He is likely to be criticised for making too many concessions to the Western punter - much of the dialogue is in English. The film, an epic 19thcentury love story, is said to have a marked Hollywood

The whiff of Hollywood has also infused the hype, which has reach an unprecedented level for a Russian film. The Paris fashion house, Hermès, has produced Barber of Siberia silk scarves. A Russian perfume firm, Novaya Zarya, has released two Barber scents. Phooe cards are going oo sale, with Barber logos. There is a website. And after dining on pancakes, caviar, pies, vodka and champagne, the première guests will be able to looseo their belts and cummerbunds and smoke Barber cigars. Bev-



Kenneth Starr is sworn in before his testimony to the House Judiciary Committee last month

Starr may face 'special prosecutor'

THE MAN who was appointed By ANDREW MARSHALL as a special prosecutor to investigate US President Bill Clinton may himself become the target of a special prose-

Kenneth Starr may be investigated for ethical breaches during his inquiry, which initially focused on the Whitewater affair but came to en-

compass much, much more. The possibility of appointing a special prosecutor is one op-tion being considered by Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, The New York Times reported

yesterday. He is alleged to have broken egal rules in the way his staff treated Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose affair with President Clinton led to impeachment

His office is alleged to have hidden links to lawyers working for Paula Jones, the Arkansas state employee who brought a sexual harassment suit against Mr Clinton. And his staff are alleged to have leaked to the press details of grand jury testimony.

Mr Start, a former official in the Reagan White House and judicial appointee of the Bush administration, is regarded as part of the "vast right-wing conspiracy" by the Democrats loyal to Mr Clinton, and as a crusading hero by much of the right wing across the United States.

The investigation into his affairs is being handled by a spein Washington

partment at the moment, which has caused criticism from the right.

Ms Reno is, after all, an officer of Mr Clinton's cabinet, and she is considering appointing a special investigator perhaps a senior Republican lawyer, to counter claims of bias to complete the probe. The idea seems to have come from Mr Starr's office, as part of a "rancorous" exchange over the

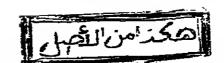
Washington is a town where the largest section in the yellow pages is for lawyers, and about half of the politicians and staff have a legal back-

So it perhaps should oot be surprising that lawyers will investigate a lawyer for his links to other lawyers. But the unportance of Mr Starr's continuing embroilment is threefold.

In the eyes of some Democrats, he overstepped the line repeatedly in his investigation. Republicans, meanwhile, think that the probe is part of a revenge strategy from the White

They are also convinced that the investigation is intended to deter Mr Starr from pressing indictments against Mr Clinton and perhaps other members of the President's entourage for their hehaviour





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Nigeria takes fateful step to democracy

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH

PARLIAMENTARY elections today, organised to end 15 years of military rule in Nigeria. should provide a clear indication of who will win the race to become president in a week's time.

Both presidential candidates, the retired general and former head of state, Olusegun Obasanjo, and the one-time finance minister, Olu Falae, are seen as acceptable to the country's ever-powerful military. They have pledged that there will be no "witch-hunts" against the top hrass who have defrauded the state.

Their parties, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and a joint challenge by the All People's Party (APP) and Mr Falae's Alliance for Democracy (AD) are ranged along tribal, religious and regional lines. It is the very scenario which the military has always used to justify its hold on power for all but 10 years of Nigeria's 39 years of independence.

· Village

TO THE

secutor

Pini Jason, a political commentator, said: "The reason the official handover from military to civilian rule is happening on 29 May - three months after the last of the elections is so that the military can sit down with the winners and work out how Nigeria will be

Even though the candidates for today's Senate, House of Representatives and National Assembly elections are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds - including top brass swapping "uniforms for agbada" (traditional dress) - their tribal affiliations are foremost in the minds of the country's 108 million people.

The AD is seen as firmly



Obasanjo: Acceptable candidate for military

Yoruba - the tribe which dominates the south-west, including the economic capital, Lagos. with its population of between 6 and 9 million

The Yorubas typically see themselves as disadvantaged in the face of domination by Hausa-Fulani and other tribes in the north of the country. Ever since Britain, through indirect rule, elevated the position of traditional leaders in the Muslim north, they have dominated in the powerful

To consolidate his position, 60-year-old Mr Falae, a Yoruba who was finance minister in the 1980s under the still-powerful General Ibrahim Bahangida, has chosen a running-mate from the north, Umaru

Amid bitter in-fighting, Mr Shinkafi was chosen at the expense of the APP's proposed Oghonnaya Onu. The departure of Dr Onu, a former governor of Abia state in the east, could cost Mr Falae crucial votes in the east when the presidential election takes place next Saturday.

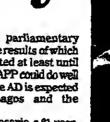
In today's parliamentary elections - the results of which are not expected at least until Monday - the APP could do well in the east. The AD is expected to sweep Lagos and the

General Obasanjo, a 61-year old Yoruba, and his PDP will not . do well in the south-west where

The act for which he is

But General Obasanjo, who has revealed himself as extremely well-funded, allegedly support from the north, con-

PDP will lose out in the east because of his role as a Marine commander during Nigeria's civil war, between 1967 and



he is considered a traitor.

respected internationally - that he as military dictator in 1979 handed over to a civilian president - is regarded in Yorubaland as a sell-out to the military because the man he selected was Shehu Shagari, a Hausa-

by military allies, will get strong solidated by his Hausa running mate, Abubakar Rimi.

General Obasanjo and the



Young market vendors near a tattered election poster for the presidential bopeful Olusegun Obasanjo, a retired general Comme Dudan Renders

itself the Independent Repub-

A nation whose patience has been severely tested by the military because fuel shortages dominate everyday life in a country that is the world's fifth oil exporter, Nigeria seems the United States and the

change patiently. Abdul Oroh, director of the Civil Liberties Organisation and at the forefront of moni-

"The presidential candidates have been chosen by questiontoring elections with dozens able means, in fact a lot of foreign observers from of money changed hands at the primaries. But we are con-

ans were not expecting will be as fair as it can be," he

"There were problems with registration, way back in October, and the constituencies are very inequitably drawn, to favour the north. Neverthe-

nevertheless willing to await. European Union, said Nigeri-fident that the voting procedure less, we are seeing the begin ning of a democratic process. the military knows that dictatorships are untash:onable. Even with these ricetions, we are far from being a

IN BRIEF

Ethiopia snubs EU peace envoys

THE ETHIOPIAN government gave a cool reception yesterday to a European Union delegation attempting to broker a peace deal between Ethiopia and Entirea, refusing a meeting with the Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi. Envoys eventually met the Foreign Minister, Seyoum Mestin.

Poles say Ted Turner was racist

THE POLISH government yesterday asked the American media magnate, Ted Turner, to apologise for a remark about Poles it described as racist. It said Mr Turner had to apologise within a week or it would withdraw \$200,000 of support for a special Time magazine edition on Poland.

Kabbah sees progress on peace

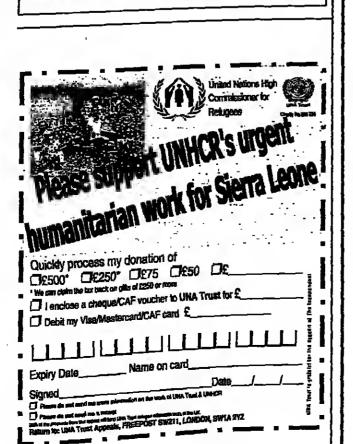
PRESIDENT AHMAD Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone said yesterday he felt progress had been made towards an end to civil war, but rebels expressed concern at his lack of movement. Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front, is in jail in Frectown facing execution for treason.

Minsk leader criticises 'pettiness'

BELARUS PRESIDENT Aleksandr Lukashenka denounced European ambassadors yesterday for their demands for compensation for eviction from their homes. "How dare such great powers bring claims of a meagre hundred or so dollars against a country that suffered from Chernobyl?" he said.

Bodies found in doctor's flat

A DOCTOR in Kazakhstan has been charged with murder after police found the mummified bodies of four of her relatives in her apartment. The doctor told police that she did not have the money to bury her mother and three sisters, who died of an unspecified disease last summer.



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Chinese farmers crippled by taxes

FARMER ZHANG surveyed the By TERESA POOL hillside. "The land is not good," in Peking. he said. From the corn and millet grown on his family plot. Zhang last year earned just 500 seven-year-old son. And that

was before the taxman came. Stop almost any of the millions of peasants who scour including a "management" fee, China's cities for work and the agricultural fee, water tax and

vear-old Zhang had to pay al-

most 150 yuan in taxes, equal to 30 per cent of his pitiful yuan (£38), nowhere near funds. It's heavy, and it's diffienough to keep his wife and cult for me to pay," he said. About half went on national agriculture taxes, while the rest

chances are they are furious about taxes and corruption back home in the villages.

From his meagre income, 32
From his meagre income, 32
agricultural ree, water tax am electricity fee And where do the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have little furce against the policy is that taxes on farmers north-west of Peking, regulations have not seen and results have northern have not seen and results have northern have not seen and results ha Official central government Hebei province, just 120 miles and have become angrier at

China is faced with a dual problem of rural poverty and high unemployment with families forced into cities to make a living

local officials flegally imposing farmers marched on the local was unable to pay. Another high fees, taxes and duties: township offices in protest at ex-

less tragic demonstrations

Sun, a layeur-old farmer

from the county, Hebei, was selling the in a Peking market to unite ends meet. "In the walle, they charge fees from rivel reasons. To buy a car for the two tip leaders they will continue; from the villages, and they also collect money from the building the

"Last year, who I the county cadres did not receive their due salary, they who had two yuan per tree from trailles who owned any tree the village."

The problem not new, but the downturn in the economy and decline in cased work because of soaring or or ry and the 1980s. has brought and rural re A 44-ye sentments to the wife.

As long ago as Murch 1993, the then prime prime Li Peng, warned in his annual state-of-the-nation that local must take effective received to correct the practices of imposing unreasonable service charges and collecting money for countless purposes". But nothing

The leadership in Peking is now terrified about the rising grasped the market economy number of peasants taking diare thwarted. Ren, from a town

solve destabilising factors". Au- I got about 8,000 yuan. But for fake seeds, fertiliser and pes-ticide, it added, and punish vil-more than 30 yuan tax regardlage bullies.

China's much-publicised vil- pigs, you lose money!"

lage elections are supposed to impose some form of accountability on wayward village heads, but Zhang despaired of changing the system.

Not all villages are this bad. Indeed one of the problems in bringing justice to the countryside is the huge disparity between different places.

Just 15 miles away from Zhang's village, 47-year-old Farmer Zhao had the luck to be born into a community with much better land. He could afford a new brick house and schooling for his two teenaged children, and despite an annual household income of 10,000 yuan (£750), did indeed pay total taxes of less than 5 per cent.

But for many of China's 800 million farmers, life is tough again after the relative boom of

A 44-year-old woman from Leting County, Hebei province, complained: "They tax everything, even products that do not ons, they still tax us on them although melons do not make money at all this year. Then there are taxes on cucumbers and tomatoes. We have five in our family and we hand in 700-800 yuan in tax from our annu-

Even farmers who have rect action after losing patience in Hebei's Chengde province, with local officials. said he raised 10 pigs last year. ---An official edict published "The baby pigs cost me 4,000 last week said that, in the countryside; the focus of security year, the feed cost 3,750 yuan. work this year should be "to dis-

less of its weight. If you raise

Fresh rioting in Xinjiang

PRO-INDEPENDENCE violence By TERESA POOLE has flared in China's restive western Muslim province of Xinjiang with around 150 ethnic Uighur youths reportedly arrested after a clash with police

in the provincial capital, Urumqi. Tension between Uighurs and the Han Chinese has intensified as a result of Peking's renewed crackdown against crime and ethnic unrest.

The trouble began when about 30 Uighur men wound up an evening of drinking last weekend by taking to the streets shouting pro-indepen-dence slogans. After the police moved in, the Uighur crowd grew to around 300 and at least five people were injured in clashes that followed.

Details of the incident, the most serious for some time, were released by the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Since the start of the year, Peking has taken an increasmaintain stability in Xinjiang, a region which in recent years has seen riots, bombings and rising violent crime. This week Amnesty Inter-

khstan faced torture and possible execution for alleged separatist activities. They had a legal system which almost been seeking political asylum in never finds suspects not guilty.

China's total land mass, has a population of just 16 million, of couraged immigration. Friction between the Uighurs and the Peking-controlled adminis-

tration has existed for decades. with separatist groups calling for the formation of an independent East Turkestan.

The extradition of the three men from Kazakhstan to China comes after increased co-operation between the two countries over big oil and pipeline contracts, and shared fears about the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Some separatist Uighur groups reportedly have contacts with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Peking stepped up its cam-paign against separatist activi-ties ahead of the sensitive anniversaries of two Uighur attacks in February 1997: a riot in the Yili prefecture in which nine people died and three bus bombings in Urumqi on the day of pre-mier Deng Xiaoping's funeral

Last month, nearly 9,000 armed police were sent to Yili (also known as Yining), and since the start of this month at ingly strong hand in trying to least four Uighurs have been executed for separatist activities, including alleged terrorism.

While few Uighurs probably support bombings by the sepnational, the London-based aratists, anti-Chinese sentihuman rights group, warned ments are nevertheless fuelled that three ethnic Uighur men by heavy-handed judicial prodeported to China from Kaza- cedures in which large numbers of Uighurs are arrested and processed quickly through

The Chinese povernment which accounts for one sixth of Peking where an area of the city known as "Uighur Street" - a road lined with around 36 whom about 40 per cent are now Han Chinese after a policy of engrants from Xinjiang and a focus for the Uighur community in the capital - was recently





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RAVI SHANKAR, who for years was castigated in his homeland for "cheapening" and "jazzify-ing" Indian classical music, received the prize of his life this week President Narayanan awarded him the Bharat Ratna, the "Jewei of India", the nation's highest civilian decoration.

"I have been given numerous awards around the world." he said, "but nothing can equal the joy of being recognised in one's own country.

"I feel especially happy to get this while I am still alive." The Bharat Ratna is often awarded posthumously.

THE PRESENTATION of the award on Tuesday gave an extra lift to the homecoming of the man who introduced the rest of the world to the joys of the sitar in the Sixties.

The Pundit (his Indian honorific), whose permanent base is near San Diego, in California, had no inkling that the award was to be made until the president telephoned at 3pm on the day of his arrival from London, to let him know. At a press conference on

Monday, he conceded that his great fame abroad probably enhanced his award-worthiness at home. "It is sad to note that our country still does not take the first step to recognise its talent. Many just wallow in frustration or turn to the

MR SHANKAR'S most bectic bout of fame began through a chance meeting with the Beaimmediately very attracted to "the idea that it was a sacrilege George," he remembers, "be- what I was doing, that I was cause of his childlike simplic

The Beatles' sitar man on a real high

WEEK IN THE LIFE

ity and his genuine interest in Indian art and music." George Harrison had allearnt the rudiments of how to play it from a student of Mr Shankar's. But after meeting Mr Shankar he began taking it more seriously. "He invited me to his place and started to learn," the maestro recalls.

THE UPSHOT: the Beatles went to India, learnt to meditate, gave up writing chart hits, took mind-expanding drugs, and eventually broke up. And for Mr Shankar, too, being with the Beatles turned out to be a long, strange trip.

"I myself became a superstar," he says with a certain wonderment in his voice. "It all got very big in the United States, my agent took all these engagements without consulting me. And I ended up becoming very unhappy, because long hair and drugs doesn't go with our music.

"My guru had always been very strict: don't drink, don't eat meat, don't have sex, don't cheapen your music. At the Monterey Folk Festival I took a stand. I told the crowd - thousands and thousands - I cannot perform unless you stop smoking. I promise I can make you high without external

But for India, eternally conservative despite the Kama Sutra and the sensuality of its arts, he was guilty by association with the longbairs. "From the mid-Sixties on I was condemned," he remembers. ties at a party in 1966. "I was "People began to propagate. 'cheapening', jazzitying' clas-

sical music. They didn't see that it was exactly the other way round, that I was trying to ready discovered the sitar and put our music back on the

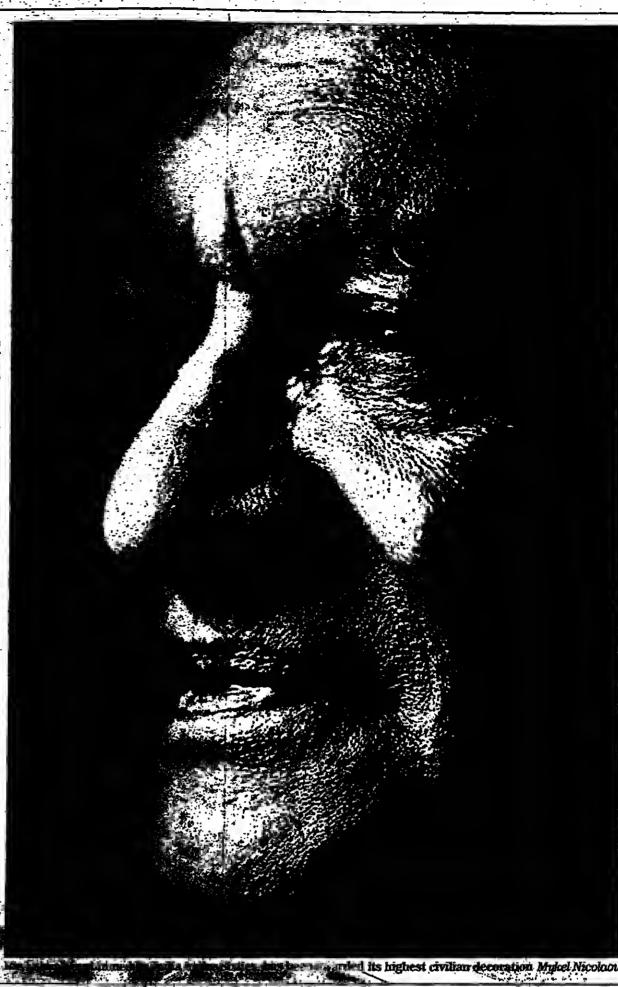
> ALL THAT is forgotten. "And now I get the Bharat Ratna. I'm amazed to see how people can change their minds with-out realising it."

The latest visit has turned into a sort of victory lap. After the presidential phone call, he visited the legendary open air university Shantiniketan near Calcutta, and performed before 15,000 people.

Monday's press conference was more like a dignified lovein, with fans thinly disguised as reporters plying the small, maestro, a little deaf but still glittery-eyed, with requests for autographs. On Tuesday he made the trip up Rapath to the presidential palace for his gong

ON WEDNESDAY he gave a concertat Siri Fort Auditorium, Delhi's premier concert hall. The Pundit was assisted on another sitar by his 17-year-old daughter, Anoushka. "My only student," as Mr Shankar calls her, she has been learning at his knee from the age of nine, and now accompanies him everywhere he plays.

The hall filled with the music of the sitar, metallic and zitherlike, droning like Uillean pipes, skipping and skirling like a fiddle worrying a reel; then lush and flowery. and sinuously to ascetic's fevered hadro



Leader takes a bus to summit

By PETER POPHAM in Lahore

SOUTH ASIA will today witness the boldest act of political theatre it has seen for some years when the Indian Prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee. boards the first bus to run from Delhi to the Pakistani city of Lahore, where he will meet up with the Pakistani premier. Nawaz Sharif, and proceed to a summit conference.

This bus, touted as the first scheduled service to run between India and Pakistan, will pick up Mr Vajpayee at Amritsar, a few kilometres from the border post of Wagah, and having deposited him at Wagah will smartly turn round and head back to India.

Cynics might observe that no date has been set lor the start of the scheduled service, and that the bus thing is, at present, no more than a sort of political make-believe.

No matter, as Mr Vajpayee has pointed out, going by bus even an air-conditioned one with television and multi-chartnel audio - brings diplomacy to the level of the common man. It reminds him that these countries are neighbours; that they speak the same language, even if they give it different names (Hindi and Urdu) and write it in different scripts; that their chronic antagonism is at least as artificial as that between North and South Korea.

Such reminders, percolating to the masses, are political dynamite.

Few are betting large sums that the summit will break the diplomatic logiam. In Lahore, the All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference held a protest meeting under a sign that read: Visit a oew threat to Pakistan Indian dogs go back home."

But between them Mr Vajpayee and Mr Sharif have set things in motion. The two nations are playing cricket today. It's the last day of a five day Test and the result is on a knife-edge. But Indian MPs flew to Pakistan the other day for a first look around. Under the shadow of modear terror, South Asia is



we're on your side



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BUSINESS

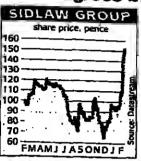
BRIEFING

Turner to leave CBI at year-end

of British Industry, is to resign at the end of 1999, six months before his term at the head of the business lobby group was scheduled to end. The CBI denied that Mr Turner was resigning due to tensions with Clive

of the things he wanted to and was resigning in order to write a book and spend more time with his young children Mr Turner was appointed to a five-year term as CBI head in September 1995.

Sidlaw agrees £106m Danisco bid



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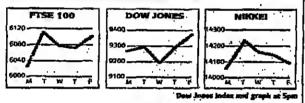
SHARES IN Sidlaw jumped 14p to 152.5p yesterday after the Scottish-based flexible packaging company announced an agreed £106.4m cash offer from Danish foods and packaging group Danisco. The offer values the Scottish food packaging company at 155p a share. 36.5 per cent higher than

were announced. The bid for Sidlaw follows a wave of consolidation in the packaging sector. No redundancies are expected from Sidlaw's 1,000-strong workforce.

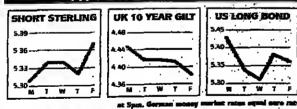
THE Royal Automobile Club (RAC) yesterday welcomed a High Court ruling allowing its 12,000 full members to pocket windfall payments from its planned flotation or possible sale. Neil Johnson, chief executive, said: "We look forward to getting on with the process of a flotation or sale

of the company in the best interests of our shareholders." Overseas members, former members and those whose membership applications were not received by the time the RAC agreed to a bid from US firm Cendant last March - which collapsed under antitrust pressures last month were all excluded from a potential £396m payout. The 6 million "associate" members, who pay around £80 a year for breakdown cover, were also ruled ineligible.

STOCK MARKETS



				70.00		
Index.	Close	Course Co	mage (%)	52 wk high !	52 wik loss ¥1	واطاز
FTSE 100	6031.20	-43.70	-0.72	6195.60	4599.20	2.0
FTSE 250	5173.10	19.20	0.37	5970.90	4247.60	3.
FTSE 350	2859.50	-15.90	0.55	2969.10	2210.40	2.7
FTSE All Share	2754.70	-14.47	-0.52	2886.52	2143.53	2.7
FTSE SmallCap	2249.10	2.70	0.12	2793.80	1834,40	3.6
FTSE Fledgling .	1227.90	1,29	0.10	1517.10	1046.20	4.4
FTSE AIM	820.40	0.90	0.11	1146.90	761.30	1.1
FTSE Eurotop 100	2766.05	16.65	0.61	3079:27	2018.15	2.1
FTSE Eurotop 300		5.95	0.50	1332,07	880.63	2.0
Dow Jones ·	9373.27	73.58	-0.79	9647,96	7400_30	1.6
Mikkel	14098.04	-48.75	-0.35	17352.35	12787.90	1.0
Hang Seng	9254.12	-148,27	-1.58	11926.16	5544.79	3.7
Dax	4802.38	-42.70	-0.88	6217.83	. 3833.71	1.7
S&P 500	1245.44	8.06	0.65	1283.64	923.32	1.7
Nasdaq	2268.60	78.05	1.24	2533.44	1357.09	0.2
Toronto 300	6405.10	41.03	0.65	7837.70		1.6
Brazil Bovespa	8945.15	84.47	0.95	12339.14	4575,69	6.9
Belglum Bel20	3416.30	34.02	1.01	3713.21	2669.71	2,0
Amsterdam Exch	517.63	5.44	1.06	600.65		7.5
France CAC 40	4130.48	91.07	2.26	4404_94	2881.21	1.5
Milan MIS30	34226.00	643,00	1.91	39170.00	24175.00	1,1
Madrid Dex 35	9640,90	82.20		10989,80	6869,90	1.5
krish Overall	5239.53	48.56	0.94	5581:70	3732.57	12
S Korea Comp	522.18	-14.23	-2.65	651.95	277.37	0.0
Australia ASX	2924.30	41.80	1,45	2948.70	2386.70	3.1



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MO			YIELD					
Index	3 month	Yr che	1 Year	Yr chg	10 TOPE	Tr che	Long bond	
OK	5.44	-2.13	5,29	-2.27	4.39	-1.56	4.38	-1.53
US	5.00	-0.6∃	5,25	-0.41	5.06	0.45	5.37	0.48
Japan '	0.28	-0.58	0.30	-0.52	1.87	-0.04	2.97	0.45
Germany	3.08	-0.43	3.03	-0.72	3,90	-1.05	4.83	-0.70

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- 1		1 6369	Charling	0.6162	+0.42p	0.6109

	POUND				DO		
	at Spm	China	"Yr Ago		at 5pm	Civala	"Yr Ago
D-h	1.6230	-1.12c	1.6369	Sterling	0,6162	+0.42p	0.6109
Dollar	1.4647			Euro	0.9024	-21.96c	0.8573
Euro	195.19		206.08	Yen	120.93	+¥1,02	125.91
Yen		0.00		S index	106.60	+0.00	108.70
E Index	101.30	0.00	104-00	3 mie-			

	Close	Chig	Yr Ago	- ipon			
		0.10	12 77	GDP 115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Brent Oil (5) 10.11	-0.10	200.05	RPI 163.40	2.40	139.57	Feb
Gold (\$)	287.65	1.45	295.55	Total	<u> 5 80</u>	7 75	:
Silver (5)	5.60	0.15	6.69	Base Rates	3.30	<i>و حد</i> '	II at Spe
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www.bioomberg.com/uk TOURIST RATES

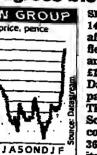
Australia (S)	2.4631	Medcan (nuevo peso
	19.47	Netherlands (guilder
Austria (schillings)	57.25	New Zealand (S)
Belgium (francs)		Norway-(kroner)
Canada (5)	2.3572	THE HEY (SECURITE)
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8185	Portugal (escudos)
	10.60	Saudi Arabia (rials)
Denmark (kroner)	8.4952	Singapore (5)
inland (markka)		South Africa (rands)
rance (francs)	9.3049	SUULI FOTIE (
	2.7831	Spain (pesetas)
Germany (marks)	457.47	Sweden (kronor)
Greece (drachma)	12.21	Switzerland (francs)
Hong Kong (\$)		Thalland (bahts)
reland (punts)	1.1146	There (fores)
ndian (rupees)	62.20	Turkey (Ilrasi)
	6,1341	USA (\$)
srael (shekels)	2757	
taly (lira)		. Rates for Indication pa
apan (ven)	1 <u>91.78</u>	

Malaysia (ringgits)

ADAIR TURNER, the director-general of the Confederation

Thompson, the organisation's president.

A CBI spokeswoman said Mr Turner had achieved most



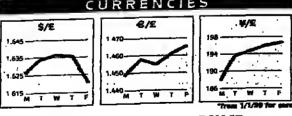
Figures yesterday showed a

its value before the talks

RAC welcomes High Court victory

Index	Close	Constitute Co	ange(%)	52 wek high !	52 wek loss 11	جامال
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Inches	3 month			Yr chg	10 year	Yr che	Long bond	Vr chg
UK	5.44	-2.13	5,29	-2.27	4.39	-1.56	4.38	-1.53
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D-P	1.6230	-1.12c	1.6369	Sterling	0,6162	+0.42p	0.6109	
Dollar	1.4647		1,4079		0.9024	-21.96c	0.8573	
Euro				Yen	120.93	+¥1,02	125.91	
Yen	195.19	0.00		S index	106.60	+0.00	108.70	
E Index	101.30	0.00			0	DC		
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	Close	CO4	At velo	_				
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<u> </u>	5) 10.11	-0.10	13.72	224	162 40	2.40	159 57	Feb
51	287.65	1,45	298.85	KPT	103,40		7.05	:
\$)	5.60	0.15	6.69	Base	Rates	5.30	1.23	at Spe
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Medcan (nuevo peso)	14.72
Netherlands (guilders)	3.1212
New Zealand (\$)	2.8906
Norway-(kroner)	12.36
Portugal (escudos)	282.77
Saudi Arabia (rials)	5:9510
Singapore (\$)	2.6617
South Africa (rands)	9.7846
Spain (pesetas)	235.65
Sweden (kronar)	12:69
Switzerland (francs)	2.2746
Thalland (bants)	56.19
Turkey (Ilrasi)	541532
USA (\$)	1.5868
. Rates for Indication purp	oses only

Slowdown in France and Germany raises G7 stakes

BY DIANE COYLE AND ANDREW GARFIELD

ALARMING SIGNS of weakness in Europe's two biggest economies have raised the stakes at today's Group of Seven meeting in Bonn. Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Central Bank, will come under fresh pressure to avert the danger of recession by cutting Euroland interest rates.

shock fall in German gross domestic product at the end of 1998. the first fall in national output for three years. Separately, business confidence in Germany contin-ued to deteriorate in January, the eighth successive month of decline. In addition manufacturing output in France fell sharply in December rather than rebounding as expected.

Analysts said the disappointing news had improved the counter-productive. chance that the ECB would cut rates in March. In the eyes of the financial markets, it is the weakness of the euro since its launch 50 days ago that explains



reluctance so far to reduce borrowing costs.

"These figures explain Oskar Lafontaine's pressure on the ECB," said Mark Cliffe, European economist at ING Barings. But he added that the high-profile campaign for rate cuts by the German finance minister had probably been

However, today's G7 meeting will be the first time that Mr Duisenberg will have had to face all his critics.

Gordoo Brown the Chanthe European Central Bank's cellor of the Exchequer, will

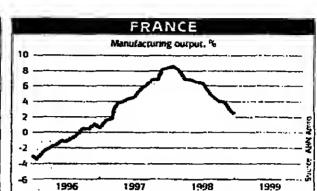
today back calls from US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin for the Europeans to cut inter-

Mr Rubin said earlier in the week that the disparities in growth between the United States and its main trading partners was leading to an unsustainable situation.

est rates to boost demand.

The Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, will point to the speed with which the UK has cut interest rates.

Treasury officials said yesterday that all countries needed



to play their part. "We do want mand-led growth across the world to ensure that the burden of absorbing exports from crisis

economies is evenly shared." Yesterday's figures showed that German GDP fell by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of 1998, taking GDP growth for the year as a whole to 2.6 per cent from the previous year's 2.3 per cent. A sharp fall in exports, down 3.4 per cent in the quarter, accounted for much of the weakoess, but investment and government spending also

declined.

The latest index of the business climate in Germany from Ifo, the economic research institute, declined to 91.1 in January from 91.4 in December, while the expectations index fell

to 96.1 from 96.5. The continu-

ing fall came as a big

disappointment as the closely

scrutinised indicator had been expected to stabilise. lo France, manufacturing output fell 0.7 per cent in December after a 0.1 per cent drop in November. The year-on-year growth in production slowed

markedly to just 1.2 per cent.

Don Smith, an economist at HSBC Securities, said: "This signals that an underlying deterioration in French industri-

al activity is now taking hold." At today's meeting the Chancellor is expected broad ly to support proposals from Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundes-bank President, for a new harson committee linking central bank governments which could act as an early warning system to ensure that potential problems in the world economy and financial system are spotted

Mr Tietmeyer has slopped short of calling for a new international body and is proposing instead a new forum with a small secretariat, which would co-ordinate the work of existing regulatory bodies and central

banks around the world. The Chancellor is particularly keen that the various codes of practice on transparency and standards of compliance and prudential supervision being drafted in response to the Asian and Russian crises are implemented rapidly.

City marks Abbey down by 7%

BY LEA PATERSON

ABBEY NATIONAL saw its shares tumble 7 per cent yesterday, despite amouncing a solid set of earnings. Analysts were disappointed by the absence of special shareholder payouts and increased bad debt

The former building society, which reported a 19 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £1.52bn, said it would retain capital in its business rather than follow the example of rivals such as Halifax and return surplus cash to shareholders.

Ian Harley, Abbey chief executive, said he would consider giving capital back to shareholders only if the money could not be used efficiently elsewhere and if at least £500m could be returned over an 18month period. Analysis were disappointed the bank decided against awarding a special dividend, and Abbey shares ended the day down 85p at 1,251p. "There was nothing in the

results that was extra to ex-pectations," said Hugh Pye, banking analyst at Robert Fleming Securities. Mr Harley said the fall in the

share price partly reflected the sharp increases recorded prior to vesterday's results. He said: "I don't think there's anything we've said today that would justify that fall in price, but the market is fickle. Abbey shares dragged down

the rest of the banking sector and the FTSE 100, which closed down 43.7 points at 6,031.2.



Taking shelter: Abbey chief executive Ian Harley (left) and chairman Lord Tugendhat yesterday Edward Webb

Several analysts were concerned about Abbey's bad debt provisions, up by £80m to £201m.

Abbey said the increase partly reflected the exceptionally low levels of bad debt seen in 1997 and that, going forward, it did not expect any substantial increase in arrears.

Mr Harley indicated that the.

acquire a smaller life insurer or asset manager than to link up with a major European or UK rival. He said: "It's difficult to justify crossborder mergers. Quite what value would be

chairman, said: "I'm sure we will make further acquisitions bank's preference would be to but they have to add value

added is hard to see. Lord Tugendhat, Abbey's

Abbey's share of net mortgage lending rose from 3.3 per cent to 5.9 per cent, although the chief executive said he would not be unduly concerned if its mortgage market share failed to rise further in 1999.

matically expect further falls in

and fit in with our strategy." base rates to be translated into Costs for year 2000 compliance and euro preparation

Mr Harley added that Abbey borrowers should not auto-

lower mortgage rates, saying the bank had to consider its savers. "Savers will become a greater issue as rates fall,".

grew by £40m to £68m. The dividend increased by 15 per cent to 35.3p per share.

Outlook, page 21

Car chief warns on staying out of euro

THE GOVERNMENT was warned yesterday that Britain's position outside the euro would deter investment by multinational companies and could cost a million jobs in manufacturing.

Nick Reifly, chief executive of Vauxhali Motors, said that companies like his would view the UK's decision to remain outside the single currency as a negative factor when deciding where to invest. And Ken Jackson, leader of

BY BARRIE CLEMENT AND COLIN BROWN

ing and Electrical Union, warned that the massive jobs haemorrhage could be much worse if the effect on employment in the financial sector was taken into account.

the Amalgamated Engineer-

On the other side of the argument, Business for Sterling. the anti-euro campaign led by Tony Blair protesting that it was unreasonable to expect business to spend billions of pounds preparing for the single currency when the Government's own economic tests for joining have clearly not been met".

Pro-euro Labour MPs are lining up to welcome the Treasury change-over plan for the euro, due next week, in spite of its failure to give a clear commitment that Britain will enter outside the single currency Lord Marsh, yesterday wrote to the European single currency. would cost his company £10m a

that it could take up to two dum will be delayed until after the next election, making 2003 the most likely entry year.

Speaking at a conference on Europe organised by the AEEU. Mr Reilly said that remaining

The plan will make it clear year. He pointed out that it was now possible to buy a Vauxhall years after a "yes" vote in a ref- car in Britain by paying in curos, erendum before Britain could although the company would enter the euro. Downing Street still be burdened by having to sources have said the referen- deal in two currencies. He described the situation as a "mess".

"The UK is an integral part of the European Union. We can't pick and choose which suits us and which doesn't," he told the video-conferencing session between the AEEU and German

PetsMart bosses may turn tables on

BY NIGEL COPE **Associate City Editor**

rivals

THE MANAGEMENT of the Pets-Mart retail chain, which is looking to buy the business back from its American parent, may turn the tables on its rival in the bid battle and bid for that com-

pany too. Giles Clarke, chief executive of PetsMart in the UK, is battling against rival chain Pets At Home to win back control of the business he sold to the Americans for £150m two years ago. Now it is understood he may also seek to win control of Pets At Home if his offer for the former Pet City business succeeds.

While there is room in the market for two out-of-town pet retailers, experts believe there would be significant cost savings

if the two were merged. The stumbling block would be that Pets At Home is a familycontrolled business that is unlikely to want to sell. It is run by Anthony Preston, who founded the company in 1991. However, the venture capital group 3i has a 20 per cent stake and may be seeking an exit after a stock market flotation of the business was

postponed last year. Pets at Home and the management of PetsMart UK are thought to be offering £10m to £15m for the retail group, which has struggled since the Americans took control. Some venture capitalists think it may be worth as little as £8m.

The Americans are thought keen to sell and may tie in an announcement with its full-year results next Tuesday. It is expected to report full-year profits of \$21.7m (£13m) on sales of \$2.1bn

There may be problems with the competition authorities if Pets At Home and PetsMart link They would control about 60 per cent of Britain's pet products market and 40 per cent of pet sales. Small, independent shops would be sure to complain

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS spent most of the day in the red, although Footsie closed above its worst, down 43.7 points at 6,081.2. Supporting shares made modest headway.

Abbey National unsettled with disappointing figures and a 66 per cent rise in provisions. The shares were once down 108p; they closed 85p lower at 1.251p. Supermarkets were ruffled by price cutting, with J Sainsbury off 11.5p to 366.25p and Safeway 9.25p to 272.5p. Tesco, the price cutter, rose 1.5p to 175.5p. Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

higher at 2.288.

US STOCKS were higher at midday in quiet trade following a rebound in technology stocks. The Dow Jones average was up 74 points, or 0.8 per cent, at 9,372. The Nasdaq was 28 points

Wall Street was braced for volatility on expiration of options and options on futures. Mark Loftus, senior vicepresident at Everen Securities said: 'It's mostly a tech-led

rebound. There is some value

● TOKYO

STOCKS recorded their third successive day of losses, with the Nikkei 225 finishing 48.75 points lower at 14,098.04. Traders said investors were concerned that the unwinding of corporate crossshareholdings ahead of the fiscal

"Unwinding of cross-holdings is preventing the index from running ahead," said Celia Farnon, a vicepresident at Nomura Securities. The yen fell further against the

dollar in Tokyo trading, boosting

the shares of export companies.

year-end would spark volatility

HONG KONG

HONG KONG shares tumbled in the first session after the threeday Chinese New Year break. The Hang Seng index reversed early gains, finishing 148.27 points - 1.58 per cent - lower at

futures, firmer interest rates and fears over had debts at Hang Seng Bank took shares lower. Shares in Hang Seng Bank - which has significant exposure to both China and Hong Kong - fell 5.2 per cent.

Traders said lower Hang Seng

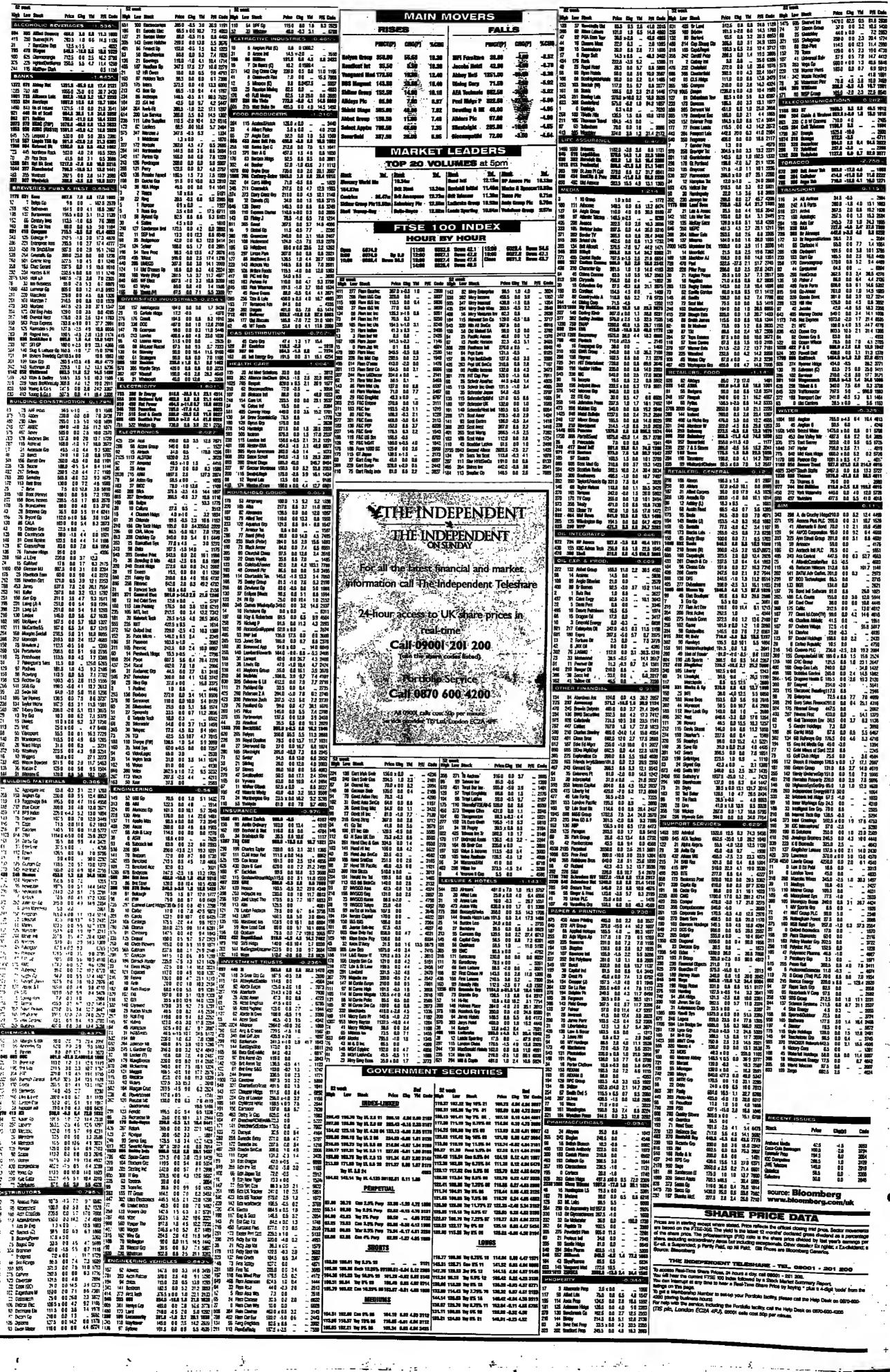
SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN shares shrugged off news that the economy had slipped into recession, trading up 107.25 points, or 1.21 per cent, by mid afternoon at 8967.93.

Gross domestic product fell by a seasonally adjusted 1.64 per cent in the fourth quarter, the second successive quarterly drop.

The national statistics institute said: "At the end of the year, the objective of the government centred on balancing the public accounts, putting off growth ... for a more stable climate.

THE INDEPENDENT
Saturday 20 February 1999



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Debt relief package has to be improved

THE REALLY big question facing the world's leading finance ministers and central bankers as they assemble this weekend in Bonn is not Wall Street or the weakness of the Japanese economy. Rather, it is how to reconnect the advanced economies with the developing world. The upheaval in global capital markets since mid-1997 has resulted in a virtual halt to the flow of investment from rich to developing countries and a total cessation of inflows the world's most disadvantaged nations. The well-stream of globalisation has

This is the issue that the Tielmeyer plan for better co-ordination between banking regulators is ultimately meant to address. The proposals drawn up by the Bundesbank president form the G7's repair job on the global financial architecture. But getting the structure right can in the end only be a long-term goal. A more immediate fix is required. On this front, debt relief seems to be the most urgent priority. The burden of debt hanging over the poorest developing economies is so great that they will never have any hope

of joining the global club unless it is



OUTLOOK

lightened. This is much more than just a moral issue, though it is certainly that. For its continuing economic success and political credibility, the global club needs to be all encomp

e all encompassing. So, although it would be easy to play the cynic and mock Gordon it—it would penalise desperately poor Brown for leaping on the bandwag-countries like Bangladesh that have on set rolling by pop stars like Bono and Bowie, this would be a cheap response. For one thing Mr Brown, like his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, has taken the lead within the G7 on improving debt relief. In truth, it is the ageing rockers, not the politicians,

More important, there is a genume need to improve the terms of the debt relief package so painfully negotiated between the G7. IMF and World Bank in the past few years. The lives, health and education of many millions depend on it. So does the ideal of an open and prosperous world economy which can deliver the benefits of market capitalism to all That ideal has taken a serious knock of late, and it is in urgent need of a

On the other hand, the debt relief campaigners do need to be steered away from the moral high ground to the less ambitious plains of practical politics. Many are calling for the entire \$200bn-plus Third World debt to be written off.

This will not happen, nor should never taken on hig debts because they are unable to. The end result is that it would divert much-needed aid money away from such countries. while giving an unfair advantage to those on the next rung of the develcoment ladder that have managed to

who are leaping aboard the band-wagon. borrow money in the past. The in-creasingly glamourous Jubilee 2000 on Tornado and Harrier jets. It doesn't change out of all recognition, would be a relatively cheap and the next generation of fighter aircraft campaign should reward Mr Brown's gesture by steering its star supporters towards a realistic target.

Defence buying

THE LOBBYING and razzmatazz is already under way. Even at this early stage, political allies are being mustered and the wining and dining is at fever pitch. The prize is this summer's £750m order for a new generation of air to air missiles - the largest British defence order of the

There are just two bidders - a consortium of Matra, British Aerospace and GEC Marconi, and the US defence group Raytheon, together with a number of European, subcontracted partners. Like a lot of these defence orders, the contest therefore becomes one between a bought-in US technology that already essentially exists, and a yet-to-be-developed independent European one. Raytheon has an existing and highly effective medium-range air-toair missile, which is already in use

simple exercise to upgrade this to the the "beyond visual range" missile that the Ministry of Defence wants for the Eurofighter Against this, Matra and British Aerospace are proposing to develop an entirely new missile, which while more expensive and high risk, would be bigger and better

The debate about which smoller to opt for is very similar to that which revolved around the Eurofighter itself. Do we want our own, customised technology, which is unbeholden to the US and might result in all kinds of weird and wonderful spin-offs, or do we just buy it off the shelf and spend the difference on something else? The argument is too long winded and varied to rehearse in any depth here, but it does seem that for a change, the US bid might be in with a chance.

The Eurofighter has come in igely over-budget and over-time. That in itself has probably ensured that it is the last great project of its type that will be entirely independently developed. Assuming the will almost certainly be a joint US European enterprise. The case for starting now and creating a missile technology that is global in scope and nature would seem a strong one.

Abbey National

IAN HARLEY, Abbey National's sober and rather sensible chief executive, has every right to feel a little miffed with the stock market today. He delivers a perfectly respectable set of full-year results - profits up by almost one fifth despite the deteriorating economic environment and his shares tumble.

The main gripe of the City, it seems, is that Abbey failed to come out with the same sort of headlinegrabbing party-bag of goodies that has characterised its rivals' result sentations.

Halifax, for example, has decided to hand back £1.5bn to its shareholders. The Woolwich came up with plans for both a special dividend world's present geo-political set-up payment and a tie-up with a US home

loan provider Barclays has outdone everyone so far, shelling out millions for a brand new chief executive. Boring old Abbey, analysts say. couldn't even muster up a new mortgage slogan or two.

The market's reaction to Abbey's results is unfair. The main justification for the demutualisation of Britain's building societies was that the extra capital they could raise would allow them to do all sorts of exciting things to ensure long-term success. Simply sitting on the extra cash for a year or two before hand ing it straight back to shareholders doesn't say much for either the management's imagination or the company's prospects.

Perhaps the most telling thing about this year's series of banking gimmicks is that their impact on share prices is already starting to fade, Barelays has made the best fist so far of hanging onto its post-resuit share price rises, amid hopes that the appointment of Michael O'Neill will generate structural change as well as newspaper column inches. The others have fared less well. So who knows, perhaps the reverse will be

Tesco puts skids under Sainsbury

J SAINSBURY, the once high-fly-ing supermarket chain, fell to its lowest for 18 months, with investors increasingly anxious about its trading performance as rival Tesco declares a price war.

The shares dropped by 11.5p (after 20.25p) to 366.25p in heavy trading. Last autumn they hit 580p. Tesco said it was making "significant reductions in hundreds of prices across the board in both branded and unbranded

Tesco edged ahead 1.5p to 175.5p but Safeway, down 9.25p to 272.5p, and Somerfield, 11.5p to 358p, were other casualties. Asda fell 1.5p to 152p.

There was speculation in the market that Tesco's price move was not unconnected with the long-awaited Office of Fair Trading report into supermarket profits, which could appear in the

next week or so. ... As if attempting to deflect such criticism, Tesco said: "This is planned, budgeted for and it in no way effects [profit] forecasts." Tesco's year ends this month it is expected to make profits of around £870m. Sainsbury shares were al-

SIMS FOOD, the meat group, held its price at 35.5p as entrepreneur David Abell edged his stake higher.

Mr Abell picked up a further 680,000 shares, moving his holding to 6.9 per cent. He led the party which won control of Jourdan, and is now chairman of the minicongiomerate.

Sims shares touched 120p four years ago-

ready under pressure before the Tesco price initiative was known. Almost certainly the rest of the supermarket pack will be obliged to follow and the market fears profits will be hit.

Earlier this month Sainsbury produced a disappointing trading statement that showed that the John Cleese Value to shout about" campaign had flopped.

In the 19 weeks to the end of January like-for-like sales grew by a miserable 1.2 per cent and, it was admitted, the Cleese campaign had eroded profit margins. An AGB Research survey this week indicated that most supermarkets, including Sainsbury, were feeling the pmch.

The Sainsbury statement was regarded as a profits warning. The market now expects year's figures to emerge at around £760m, compared with £719m last time and £809m in 1995. After a token opening gain,

Footsie spent the session in the

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

red, ending 43.7 points lower at 6,031.2. The mid cap and small cap indices edged ahead.

Abbey National ruffled sentiment with a decidedly pedestrian profits performance. Coming after encouraging displays from Lloyds TSB, Barclays, Woolwich and Halifax, the Abbey announcement was a nasty surprise. Abbey led the Footsie fallers, plunging 85p (after 108p) to 1,251p with turnover put at

nearly 7 million shares. Centrica, after Thursday's strong run, fell 2.25p to 119.5p as Merrill Lynch placed 14 million shares at 120p.

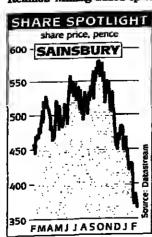
British Aerospace suffered another uncomfortable ride as the market continued to fret about the Al-Yamamah oil-forarms contracts with Saudi Arabia. The shares fell 10p to 402p, their lowest since November.

The British and Saudi governments as well as BAe have denied reports that the contracts, agreed in 1985, are to be frozen on a care and maintenance basis.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, rose 9.75p to 503.5p after Salomon Smith Barney produced an upbeat circular, suggesting the price should be

around 550p. On the takeover front Sidlaw, a packaging group, jumped 14.5p to 152.5p, the group agreed a 155p cash offer from Danisco of

English & Overseas Properties rose 18.5p to 79p after disclosing a bid approach and Reunion Mining added &p to



82.5p as talks began with possi-ble bidders for all or part of the business

LIBERfabric firmed 1.25p to 135n. It is the latest small company to be attracted by the possibility of a management buyout. But the printer overshadowed the buyout talks with what amounted to a profits warning.

Elsewhere the rumour mill remained active. David S Smith, the packaging group, was again heavily traded, gaining 6.5p to 113.5p and Relyon, a beds to security group, jumped 55.5p to 350p on persistent speculative interest.

Computer groups Misys and Sema made headway on hopes that they will next month claim Footsie membership. Misys, with the help of a US investment. presentation, gained 27.5p to 640p and Sema 36p to 716p. Greenalls, the botels and

pubs chain, managed a 230 gain. to 380p despite a downbeat trading statement. Whithread is rumoured to be stalking the former brewer, which has experienced tough times. At one time Greenalls was off 13.5p. Vaux, where the ubiquitous

MMI, an Irish stockbroker, is in liquidation. It has outstanding positions in a number of shares. including Dana Petroleum. which will be cleared by the liquidator.

K&H. London's remaining options broker, ont MMI into liquidation. It is thought to be owed more than £1m, but principal Philip Kitchener could not provide an estimate. Dana held at 6.25p.

Whitbread is also seen as a potential bidder, rose 12.5p to

Brewer Tom Hoskins rolled out a profits warning and fell 5p. partially recovering towards the close to 14.5p, off 3.5p. Arcolectric, a switches and

neon signs group, was another offering profits caution, fading 6p Jacobs, the shipping group, sunk 4p to 42p, a near four-year low, ahead of figures. Last year

the shares were 96p. Mondas, the software house, hardened 11p to 86.5p after winning two contracts worth around

selling list. SEAQ VOLUME: 1.02 billion SEAQ TRADES: 86,435

GILTS INDEX: n/a

£770m loss at NEC stuns world markets

NEC, THE Japanese computer and telecoms giant, stunned the world's markets yesterday when it reported its biggest-ever loss and announced plans to axe 15,000 jobs and remove its top executive. The company revealed that a dismal second half of the year would plunge it into a 150bn yen (£770m) loss in 1998.

NEC blamed the slump on tough trading in its core sectors of telecoms, computers and semiconductors and promised a sweeping restructuring. More than 10 per cent of the 145,000 world workforce will lose their jobs in the next three years, with around 6,000 redundancies in overseas operations.

By Francesco Guerrera

NEC employs around 2,700 people in the UK at plants in Telford near Birmingham, Livingstone in Scotland, and offices in London and Milton Keynes, A spokesman yesterday said that it was "too early" to say whether UK staff would go.

The president, Hisashi Kaneko, was the first casualty of the overhaul. He is to resign at the end of next month and will be replaced by the executive vice president, Koji Nishigaki. Mr Kaneko said the company was looking at the disposal of non-core operations in a bid to mand resulting from the slash 600bn yen from its interest economic crisis in Asia as well

payments. He claimed the as Central and South America, changes would help NEC weather the difficult trading and return

"With our restructuring efforts and the resbuffling of top management we hope to create a revitalised NEC," be said.

During 1998, sales in NEC's three major husinesses had been savaged by increasing competition, the economic crisis in emerging markets and the strength of the yen, the company said. "NEC's business envirooment has proved severe due to the delayed Japanese economic recovery, depressed de-

and a rapid rise in the value of the yen.

The losses were compounded by 30bm yen lost on bond trading and a 75bn yen charge for the restructuring of Packard-Bell NEC, the group's US personal computer subsidiary. The Japanese group last year slashed the unit's workforce by

half to 3,000 and reduced the number of PC models in a bid to fight increasing competition from low-cost makers such as Compag and Dell, NEC also announced it would buy Packard-Bell operations in Europe for \$450m and bring them directly

IN BRIEF

US trade deficit soars to \$169bn THE US trade deficit soared

to a record \$168.59bn (£103bn) in 1998 from \$110.21bn the previous year. even though it fell to \$13.8bn in December due to an unexpected \$20n drop in imports. The previous record was \$153.3hn in 1987 - the year of the October stock market crash, thought to have been triggered by the growing reluctance of foreign investors to buy US assets on the scale required by the balance of payments gap.

Robert Shapiro, undersecretary at the US Commerce Department, said the trade gap was likely to swell further in 1999, with the US currently the only engine of growth in the world economy.

Aliders warning

ALLDERS, the Croydonbased retail group, yesterday varned shareholders that it had seen no sustained improvemen) over the past few weeks since it announced a heavy fall in like-for-like sales. But chairman John Pattisson told the annual meeting that the company's decision to extend the winter sale for a week had proved successful. The shares closed down 5p at 97p.

Burford sells

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the property group, has raised £62m with the sale of a 75 per cent stake in its North London retail and leisure park O2 to a property investment fund managed by Marylebone Warwick Balfour. The sale valued the recently completed development at £82m, reflecting a profit on the cost of £20m, Burford

said yesterday. Railtrack signs

RAILTRACK announced that it had signed agreements with London & Continental Roilways, Union Railways and the Government, securing the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail

Approach to EOP SHARES IN English &

Overseas Properties soared by 18.5p to 79p after the property company revealed it had received a takeover approach. The news of the approach comes a day after the group reported a 4 per cent increase in net asset value to 104.5p.

Games on

EIDOS, the computer games group behind Lara Croft and the Tomb Raider series, has agreed to publish three products from Elixir Studios, London-based group founded by Demis Hassabis. who was co-creator of his first computer game Theme Park when he was 16 years old. Eidos shares rose 26p to

Management, the hedge fund. **UDM** defers RJB MINING said it had

received notification from the Union of Democratic Mineworkers that the UDM was deferring its threatened industrial action originally planned for next Monday to 1 March. Shares in RJB climbed Ip to 62.5p.

Greenalls back in takeover spotlight drew Thomas said a poor performed better, with room yields

GREENALLS, the pubs and hotels group, was back in the takeover spotlight yesterday after it issued a downbeat trading this statement the statement of the state ing statement. Shares in the company rose 23p to 380p as the market anticipated a bid.

Whitbread and Bass have DBS Management, the fibeen linked with a possible nance group, rose a further £1.2bn takeover of Greenalls, 13.50 to 143.50 following its rewith its De Vere botels chain moval from the pensions misseen as the most attractive asset. "Some sort of bid will definitely materialise soon, and that's driving the share price up," one sector analyst said. John Beaumont of Merrill

Lynch said: "There is nothing in this statement that improves the underlying fundamentals of the husiness. It will simply hasten the chances of someone making a bid." A spokeswoman for Greenalls declined to com-

Lord Daresbury, Greenalls group managing director (left), with chairman Andrew Thomas

ment on "market speculation". Analysts have cut profit forecasts as a result, with Nigel Popham at Teather & Greenwood reducing his full-year figure of £142m by £5m to £7m. At the annual meeting yes-

terday, Greenalls' chairman An-

formance in the pubs division had pushed four-month sales below expectations. Total sales in the period rose by 2.5 per cent but sales in the group's pubs and restaurants fell by 4.6 per cent.

rants has remained difficult and is below both last year and our expectations for the current year," said Mr Thomas. However, the group said pub trading in the past three weeks had shown a slight improvement "so we may see things turn". The hotels division has per-

chain the top performer with yields up by over 10 per cent. Greenalls said the recent "Trading in pubs and restausale of its tenanted pub estate would lead to £5m of annual savings after a planned reorgani-

sation. But, shorn of its brewing and tenanted pubs, analysts see the rump of managed pubs and holels as a prime takeover target. "It is in the middle ground and just too small in this market," one said.

rising. The De Vere chain saw

room yields rise by 2.1 per

cent, with the Village Leisure

UBS sheds stake in Swiss Life as review continues

EUROPE'S LARGEST bank. UBS, is placing its 25 per cent stake in insurance group Swiss Life with institutions, raising

3fr1.4bn (£600m). The move is part of the group's refocusing on its core rivate and investment banking perations. The bank has also aid it is looking to sell its rade finance operations.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

The sale had been expected for some time. UBS has said that it would take a decision on the fate of its Swiss Life stake

by March. UBS and Swiss Life decided late last year that the attempt to co-operate was not working

Swiss Life has been a disappointing investment for UBS. The group's shares fell by 11 per cent last year because of worries about the impact on margins of competition in its domestic market. The insurer

en last year in the auction for GAN, the French state insurer. UBS shares fell by 3 francs to Sfr443 yesterday.

There was some disappointment that the stake was placed with institutions rather than sold to a trade huver is largely domestically based. which might have used it as a reviewing all of the areas of its ment in Long-Term Capital

as well as had been hoped. An attempt to expand into platform to seek a merger with when the alliance was forged in France failed when it was beat the group. In a joint statement issued

yesterday, the two companies said that the decision to sell was due to the "growing competition between the strategies pursued by the two groups in the area of asset gathering".

UBS is in the process of

business in an attempt to boost profitability following the heavy losses sustained last autumn.

The review followed the departure of the chairman, Mathis Cabiallavetta, and several other board members, which was sparked by the bank's having to take a Sfr950m charge because of its involve-

Following the sale, the two companies will end the alliance which was set up in 1995 when UBS bought the stake, with Swiss Life buying out the bank's 50 per cent share in their

insurance joint venture. The Swiss Life chief executive, Manfred Zobl, will leave

Garforth masters in a new science

Front-row play no longer just a case of push and shove for England's late developing prop. By Chris Hewett

being a natural-born prop who rucked and mauled his way around the Wendy houses of the East Midlands and drank in the hlack arts of scrummaging with his mother's milk, he appears to have spent his formative pretty boys, "I played full-back for the school rugby team and centre-forward for a soccer side in Coventry called Folly Lane," he says proudly. A footballer? Garforth? Pull the other one. A lootball, maybe, hut surely not a footballer.

"No, really," he insists, an expression of purest innocence radiating from his war-torn front-rower's mug. "If it hadn't have been for a football match being cancelled, I might never have played serious rugby at all. Some of my mates happened to drive by that very afternoon and they asked me if I fancied a run around. Suddenly, I was having the time of my life, wrestling away with some bloke in the scrums one minute and sharing a beer or two with him the next. This, I thought, is my sort of game."

And it remains Garforth's particular route to the top has English tradition of Colin smart and Gareth Chilcot 'The Baron' was five weeks short of his 31st hirthday when he made his first two-minute excursion into the international arena - understandably, he had wondered whether he would ever make it - and six weeks into his 33rd year when he assumed his Test career had been firmly and finally laid to rest.

summer's southern hemisphere tour. I thought it was all over," he admitted this week.

Since when, Garforth has upgraded his fitness, improved his scrummaging, tripled his 80ntinute tackle count, cemented his place on England's tighthead and pocketed a man of the match Krugerrand lor inspiring know who is up to scratch and his countrymen to a famous victury over the record-equalling there, I can tell you. How many Springboks. Not half bad for a thurtysomething has been with Amazing. It's not easy on the a rearranged visage.

nuitch business, but to be perfeetly honest with you, it's not the sort of thing that means a great deal to me." he says. So what does mean a great deal? "Simply the fact that I'm in the England side and playing the best rugby of my life. I was hitterly disappointed at missing
out on the tour, but Clive Woodout on the tour, but Clive Woodou

IT TAKES some believing, quite frankly, but Darren Garforth swears it is true. Far from away and get myself sorted, away and get myself sorted, which I think I've done.

you're really fit, when you've put in the hard work and made the sacrifices. That's how I feel right now. Ready for anything." Garforth is a walking, talking

sporting years as one of life's justification of professional rugby. Back in the dark ages, he would work a six and a half day week on huilding sites in Leicester and Coventry and Nuneaton. He was a scaffolder by trade; legend has it that he once described himself as a 'tubular executive", hut he denies it. "Cracking line, that one," he chuckles, "hut I'm afraid it was someone else's. Still, it made me sound very important, so I was quite happy to pects of the amateur era that make him laugh, but he readily accepts that he would never have fulfilled his potential under the old rules and regu-

could fit it in, which wasn't the sort of game, even though his a point of training on a Sunday been positively strewn with in the gym to work up a sweat potholes and boulders. A and a nice swim to get the Satspherical prop in the grand urday out of the system. As a full-timer, I can do all this and deeply important to me."

Clare, his wife, and his threeyear-old daughter Rebecca. But Garforth also sees the Leicester club as "family", not to mention the still wider but very exclusive band of beatenup foot soldiers who inhabit the front rows of the world.

"Respect" is a big word in the "When I failed to make last scrummager's vocabulary. To earn it, a prop has to be bloody good at whatever it is he does down there in the dungeon. "Jason Leonard," says Gar-

forth in answer to the obvious question. "Now there's a bloke who's earned respect, not just here but across the world. In this game, you soon get to who isn't and Jason's right up caps has he won? Nearly 70? body; it's all or nothing, every "Very nice, that man of the game you play. To stick in there as long as Jason is a hell of an achievement. People assume he's older than me because he's been around for ever, but he's

two years younger. very good props these last two

"You know inside when

ideal way of going about things. Turning pro transformed everything. For instance, I now make after a match. Just half an hour

His close family includes

"I've played against some



and no exaggeration, we could ally is a thinking man's game use it as a tablecloth. I rate now. It's not just head down,

Craig Dowd. the All Black, and Christian Calilano, the Frenchman. We took a right hiding from the French in Paris last year. What went wrong? How long have you got? Let's just say we weren't tuned in.

But that's the whole point,

when a prop says this, but it re- are both 5ft 10in - and although arse up and shove: modern-day scrumming is a precise science. "What goes on between their

front row and ours can decide a match, quite definitely." Which is precisely why Garforth's one-on-ooe tussle with Tom Smith, is one oI the head-

offsets any physical disadvantage. Both men "carry the ball up" and pride themselves on a with London Irish last weekdouble-figure tackie count, end," revealed Garforth. whatever the pace of the game. Forget the six-year age gap in that big Samoan of theirs. He Smith's favour. They are standard bearers for the same front

at 18st 7lb, the Scot's heavily

stylised technique more than

row generation. It is a generation far re- going to the dogs.

moved from anything Fran Cotton or Sandy Carmichael Garforth is two stones heavier might have imagined back in their one-dimensional heyday of the 1970s. "I took some fearful stick after Leicester's game "Fancy missing a tackle on was coming straight at me, too." A prop missing a tackle? Shameful. This daft old game is

Metcalfe aiming for Scottish kick-start

Former Kiwi full-back puts little store by bitter tales of torn tartan at Twickenham. By Chris Hewett

ACCORDING TO Glenn Met-calfe, one of the many kilted Kiwis currently reinventing their rugby personas in the hills and giens of Scotland, boredom and predictability are the twin evils of the union code. On the face of it, then, be should be contemplating this afternoon's 106th Calcutta Cup ruma big-game fisherman marooned in a trout farm.

England-Scotland matches have been known to bore the most fanatical anorak into submission, and as for the predictable, one look at the record book might make Metcalfe wonder whether it is worth his while turning up.

When it comes to winning at Twickenham, the Scots tend to operate on the sort of cycle that makes the arrival of Halley's Comet resemble a weekend trek to Tesco's. They managed it in 1926 and again in 1938 – a real golden age, that - hut then paused for breath until Peter Brown's wonderfully distinctive slope-shouldered kicking earned them victory by a single point in 1971. Their last taste of honey in south-west London is a full 16 years distant; 11 points from Peter Dods, tries from Roy Laidlaw and Tom Smith and a sneaky little drop goal from Keith Robertson resulted in a surprisingly com fortable 22-12 canter,

Fortunately for this latest Scottish vintage, the words "history" and "bunk" share a close proximity in the Metcalfe lexicon. "England are definiteyear-old full-back this week. "I personally think they are made out to be a lot better than they are. The All Blacks back home have the same sort of ability to intimidate by reputation, to run out on the field with their record striding before them: But visiting teams can use that as a positive as well as a negative. England will be a different kettle of fish to the Welsh side we played a fortnight ago. especially up front, but we're coming into this one off the back of a victory and there is confidence in the squad."

More confidence, certainly, than could be detected last summer, when Metcalfe broke into the squad and the recently-retired Rob Wainwright led his tourists into a two-Test series in Australia. The Wallabies had just put 76 points on England in Brisbane and while Metcaife, who played in both internationals, and his new countrymen made rather more of a fist of things - they lost 45-3 in Sydney before stepping up a gear to hold John Eales' accomplished outfit to a 22-point winning margin in Brisbane they too were forced to swallow

indigestible helpings of pride.
Injury prevented Metcalfe keeping a pre-Christmas

appointment with the Spring-boks, but be hit the ground running in the Five Nations curtain-raiser with Wales at Murrayfield, indulging his passion for the counter-attack by running from deep to manumatch try for Scott Murray.

Loose English kicking would open up similar opportunities this afternoon, but this particular adventurer does not intend "I want to take a lot more ball coming into the line rather than simply run back kicks from a flat position, which was the case ainst Wales," he asserted.

"Also, I want to vary my game with a few kicks; if I don't jumble things up a bit, I might become predictable. To he



'I want to vary my game with a few kicks; if I don't jumble things up a bit, I might become predictable' 84.

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variation as a team in the first match; there were lots of things we didn't try out, but then the Welsh allowed us very few scrum put-ins and line-out throws. There is more to come from us, much more, and with any luck we'll get the chance to really play against England."

Pie in the sky or a smart reading of the runes? Too many Calcutta Cup matches of recent vintage have been mean-minded, mean-spirited exercises in psychological one-upmanship and overtly nationalistic aggravation, but the last two games have at least produced 11 tries - more than in the previous eight old-firm confrontations combined. If the most ancient international fixture of them all is finally catching on to the highscoring imperatives of new-age professional rugby, Glenn Hayden Metcalfe is precisely the kind of thoroughly modern island-hopper to take advantage.

Experiencing highs and lows of plane speaking

had the fortune to find himself sitting next to Tony Banks on a flight home from Geneva.

Having fuelled the fire being lit under the feet of England's doomed manager, Glenn Hoddle, the Minister for Sport had spent two days sticking it to the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland over their ill-conceived strategy for doping control.

In the course of the twohour return flight, my friend may have mused on the dizzying number of conversational gambits likely to jump-start the loquacious Banks. Or he may not. At any rate, no great exchange of ideas took place.



ROWBOTTOM

ask him," said my colleague. It would have been easy for me to have laughed. And, in fact, it was easy. But then I thought on, as they say in places like tually, it looked as if she had "I couldn't think what to Coronation Street. I tried to been crying. Good one.

recall some of my great inter- Talking to the British bob- trip around his old bobsleigh views with subjects I had en- sleigh coach, Tom de la Funty, haunts — Winterberg, La countered in planes. And I on the way back from last began to feel less smug.

conducted somewhere over India on the return journey medal at the Games since from the 1990 Auckland Com- Dixon and Nash's victory in monwealth Games. How did multiple shot putt champion passed down the aisle? Ah yes. official posting as bar steward. "All right, Judy?" The interviewee, beaten to the gold by her of lager in a way that any domestic rival Myrtle Augee, responded with a brave smile which it pains me to recall. "Felt a member of Britain's twobetter," she replied, her face pale with disappointment. Ac-

year's Winter Olympics in Well, let me see now. There Nagano was a fundamentally was the Judy Oakes interview, different experience. Buoyed up by the first British bobsleigh 1964, the voluble RAF physical that opening line go as Britain's training instructor was congeniality itself as he took up an un-

> Hunting and gathering tins cave-dwelling ancestor would have appreciated. De la Hunty, man boh at the 1988 Calgary Olympics, took me and the other team members who

haunts - Winterberg, La Plagne, Cortina - before flashing onwards to a condemnation of the tampering which had seen Switzerland's top sled ruled illegal and then coming to a gradual halt over the topic of escalating tension between the West and Iraq. If things, as he put it, "kicked off", then his

leave was cancelled and he

would be involved in monitor-

hiological warfare. Preoccupied by this disturbing vision, and with the the words on my computer keen blade of my mind blunt- screen. One of the players - it ed as a result of De la Hunty's might have been that Jane successful foraging, I returned Sixsmith - pointed with biblito my seat and forgot all the de- cal authority to a word in my

some members of the British women's hockey team coming home from the Barcelooa Olympics was equally lively, and equally useless, save for one small detail.

The players were in high spirits - at least - after earning bronze medals, and a sense of playfulness informed their progress past me towards the back of the plane. After asking ing levels of hazard from any a familiar question - "What are you writing then?" - they craned over my shoulder to see

A discussion I had with you know? They seemed to airport terminal. Thankfully I think that was amusing in some way. Useful things I have learned

probably boil down to this: your feet swell up on long-haul flights and, in the unlikely event of oxygen masks being required, cigarettes should be extinguished.

In truth, I ought to add another thing to that list. When you are eating in-flight meals, the stuff in the thin paper tube is sugar, not salt. Salt is in the little sachets and tastes quite different

One memorable, if brief exchange of words does stick in my memory, although it were listening on a lightning tails. I'm sorry, hut there it is. copy. Incorrectly spelt. And do came not in a plane, hut in an

was a witness rather than a participant when a fellow member of Her Majesty's while aboard an aeroplane Press asked the driver of Britain's Olympic bobsleigh bronze medallists, Sean Olsson, to display the fruits of his

labours in Nagano. Olsson obliged, swinging the heavy disc proudly from its ribbon

"Very nice." said my friend. "Bet you wish it was gold." It was a risky thing, no, a foolhardy thing to say to a 15-stone SAS paratrooper. For a moment there was what you might call an awkward pause.

Then Olsson spoke: "It's gold to me." Now that was a good line.

Five Nations: Henry and Gatland come face to face as formidable Irish aim to continue domination

Wales driven by fear of failure

THE HARSH fact of sporting life is By DAVID LLEWELLYN the good performances are generally buried under the most recent poor ones. So it is with Wales. That spirited showing against South Africa and Argentina last autumn is but a vague memory, while the bit-terness of the defeat at Murrayfield lingers just over Welsh shoulders and will continue to do so until the

Dragons roar in triumph again. Today they begin as underdogs against a much-fancied Ireland side which boasts one of the finest tight fives in the Five Nations, a lethal set of hacks and a string of victories in Cardiff that stretch back to the previous decade - six out of seven wins over Wales, the best the home side

could manage was a draw in 1991. There is a difference this year. Wales are not in Cardiff. They are at their second home, Wembley, where they had a motivational kick around with a couple of footballs on the pitch yesterday morning, a ground they have adopted until completion of the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff later this year.

And while Ireland may have made the Cardiff Arms Park their second home, the slate is wiped clean for the time heing, since they are appearing at Wembley for the first time. And of course Wales bave their guru, coach Graham Henry.



(at Murrayfield).

FIXTURIES: Today: Wales v Ireland (ot Membley); England v Scotland (at Twickenham), 6 March: France v Wales (at Stade de France): Ireland v England (at Lansdowne Road), 20 March: England v France (at Twickenham); Scotland v Ireland (at Murrayfield), 10 April: France v Scotland (at Stade de France). 11 April: Wales v England (at Wembley),

A Messiah-like figure after those games against Argentina and South Africa, he is reduced to the status of a mere mortal after the Scotland defeat a fortnight ago.
There is little doubt, though, that

Henry, a New Zealander of exacting standards and an innovative rugby hrain, has imbued his charges with more confidence than they had displayed prior to his coming among them. He is looking for something that he felt was sorely lacking against the Scots.

"I think we had the fear of failure against South Africa, we were bloody scared they were going to kill us," he explained. "And we didn't have the fear of failure against Scotland. So the fear of failure can help. I hope it's back now."

It is probably much the same for the Irish. They too have their southern bemisphere influence. Warren Gatland, like Henry, is a Kiwi. The pair have never crossed swords on a rugby pitch, but when Gatland was a promising opening batsman for Hamilton Grammar School, Henry, a teacher, was coach of Auckland

At that time Henry was coo-

M WillamsPontypndd

Raplacements 16 K Morgan (Pantypridd): 17 L Davies (Cardif), 18 D Llewellyn (Ebbw Vale): 19 M Voyle (Llnch): 20 A Lewis (Cardiff): 21 C Anthony (Swansca), 22 G Jenkins (Swansca)

Referee: 5 Young (Australia)

M Robinson.....Swansea 14 J Bishop

D JamesPontypridd 11 N Woods.

......SwanseaRichmond

.....Richmond

C Wyatt.....Llanelli 5 J Davidson.....

5 Howarth

D Young.... C Oulopell

WALES VIRELAND

N Jenkins Pontypridd 10 D Humphreys Dungamon
R Howley Cardiff, capt 9 C McGuinness 5t Mary's Coll

2 K Wood .

4 P Johns ..

D O'Culnacagain.....

.....Swansea 12 J Bell.

vinced Gatland would go on to distinguish himself at cricket and said: "Who would have thought that Warren would be preparing a rugby team to take on a team that I have

While it may be no reflection of their previous teacher-pupil relationship, Gatland has certainly done his homework on what to expect from Henry.

"We expect the Welsh to try to break up the game," said Gatland, who took over as Ireland coach after Brian Ashton resigned just over 11 mooths ago. "They will try to tap and go through Rob Howley and play at pace. And they will speed up the line-outs."

Now there is an interesting one. Henry expressed his disappointment at the attitude of English referee Ed Morrison to the style of line-out play that Wales have employed under Henry's influence, where the selected forwards run to the mark at the last minute and the jumper is able to launch himself at the ball while the other side are still taking stock of how many players they should have had in the line to start out with.

Henry was so upset with Morrison that he wrote to Steve Griffiths, the International Board's Referee Development Officer, last week, tabling his objections and requesting clarification on a number of

"I got a letter back," an unhappy Henry said: "The letter back did not answer any of the points I raised. I had asked for a definitive statement on how international rugby games were going to be refereed at the line-out, What I wanted back was a series of points from A to whatever, What I actually got back was a general statement."

So no help. But there is one hright spot for Henry and Wales, today's referee is an Australian, Scott Young, and in Henry's eyes that is no bad thing. "I think southern hemisphere referees are attacker friendly, in other words those with the ball are given more opportunity to keep it; referees in the northern hemisphere are defensive friendly, they like a contest at the tackle for the ball. That's just the way it is.

"You therefore have to coach a little differently because of the interpretation of the law at the tackle. I would prefer the referees to be attacker friendly because it's an easier game to coach, it makes my joh that much easier."

The Irish had better beware as well, for they suffered from indiscipline against France.

In fact, team manager Donald as the cause of our defeat against France, but we bonestly believe we lost that game because of indiscipline in the last 20 minutes. We have spoken to the players individually and collectively about this. When there is someone of the quality of Neil Jenkins as a place kicker around then we will have to watch our discipline very carefully."

P ClohessyYoung Munster

a E Miller.....Terenure Coll

Replacements: 16 R Henderson (Wasps): 17 E Elwood (Galwegans), 18 C Scally (UCO): 19 V Costello (St Mary's Colli' 26 M Galwey (Shannon): 21 J Fitzpatrick (Dungannon): 22 R Nesdale (Newcastle).

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Kick-off: 3.0 (BBC1)



The Wales captain Robert Howley and his fellow players get together at yesterday's final training session at Wembley Allsport

O'Shea leads Wembley charge of the Exiles trio

rehef, tinged with some genuine of the uniting of London Irish's Three Musketcers' at the top level against Wales today. By David Llewellyn The Exiles' back-line trio of the Lenihan declared: "People have wings Justin Bishop and Niall Woods been focusing on the place kicking and the full-back O'Shea have proved a potent attacking force and an effective defensive unit in the Allied Dunbar Premiership this season. Now they have the opportunity

to perform at the highest level. There is no doubt O'Shea relishes the prospect of working with his club-mates. "I would hope the three of us could bring something extra to Ireland's approach," said O'Shea, whn has 24 caps to his name. "We know each other's strengths and weaknesses from playing week-in, week-out. More importantly we know how to cover for these and that

is a nice thing for all of us." But there is a compassionate team man in the fiercely competitive O'Shea. Woods is in the side because the first choice, Girvan Dempsey of Terenure College, was forced to withdraw because of a hip injury. In typical Musketeer fashion, all for one and one for all, O'Shea said: "In the back of my mind all the time, though, I'm thinking of poor Girvan, because he was fitting in so well with the team. We all felt for Girvan the other day because we've all been through it; and giveo the occasioo that this is going to be it was particularly hard, but these things hap-

This season London Irish have

THERE IS a distinct sense of joy and London Irish full-back is confident that sadness, when Conor O'Shea talks club understanding will prove crucial

> defence. As often as not they will tackle, and get a solid base so the counter-attack from behind their own line and invariably to good effect. Woods is the leading try scorer in the Premiership with 11. O'Shea and Bishop account for a further nine between them.

But there is no question of the three of them trying to take on the Welsh by themselves. O'Shea explained: "As a unit we will be trying to do what is best for the team. The number one thing we have to dn is carry out our basics; catch, kick,



guys in front of us can draw confidence from that. Everything else will flow from there.

"We are not looking to be stars. If we start doing the stupid things and you always know when chances are on - if we try to press too much, or try to impose ourselves on the game, that's when mistakes will be made. It's a matter of applying common sense. International level is a step up, but yes, if it's on, of course have been encouraged to go for it. But if the opportunity doesn't arise against Wales, if it means no touches for us in the back three, but we win, then that is all that matters."

The concept of the team runs strongly through O'Shea and rest of his international colleagues. "As an indication of how good the spirit is in the squad," explained the London Irish captain, "last Monday, after the defeat against France, I got phone calls from some of the guys and we all agreed that, as much as we want to and enjoy playing for our clubs, we could not wait to get back together again the following Sunday. "And if we have such a great

souad spirit now when we are going through the hard times, you have to wonder what will happen when we start winning. Look at the confidence that will bring. All the same, it's one thing enjoying being with

To that end, it would be fair to say that without the powerhouses in the pack, the backs would be next to use-less as a strikeforce. The Ireland front five is being called the best in the tournament. But O'Shea insist-

ed: "They won't go out there think-

ing that, because they know if they do they will get their come-uppance. We know we all have to work hard for each other. "Essentially the backs are only as good as the forwards. Someone once said: The forwards decide who wins matches, the backs decide by how much,' and that is the truth. The person who scores the points

done the dirty work, the hard graft. This is purely team, team, team." There was an edge to O'Shea's voice when he said: "We badly need to win. We have lost so many matches by one score or one point in the last year or so. We need to turn one

knows that someone inside has

of those into a victory." He and the rest of the Ireland team relish the prospect of trotting out at Wembley a little moment of history for them all, "Playing against Wales in the Arms Park has always been a special thing," explained O'Shea, "the crowds, the singing, it's the kind of atmosphere you dream about. I'm sure Wembley will add to that. It's going to be a great moment for every player to walk out in the shadow of the twin towers. But, to be honest, if I were given a chance to go to a ground with no-one there to watch us and play Wales and beat

Roll on spring and my **Gnats**



ANNALISA BARBIERI

ON FISHING

I AM nowhere near a river and am sad. There is no crisp, frosted grass to crunch over, only horrid grey carpet tiles separating hor-rid grey desks all around. In place of twinkling sunlight there is electric light that neither warms nor cheers me like the proper stuff does. I am surrounded by people that do not know one end of a fishing rod from the other and think what I do is queer.

Hurry up spring! When the trout season reopens and I can dig out my favourite Parachute Black Gnats and flick dry flies onto pretty rivers to raise wild brownies. How well I shall iroo my fishing shirt to welcome it back from the depths of the cupboard. How polished my reets will be and how I shall wind them back and forth to prepare myself for the sound of them singing for real on the river bank. My fishing lines, all of them, be them floating, sinking or inter-mediate, will be bathed in the splendours of specialist line cleaner and dried upon Irish linen cloths. I shall even clean the treads of my Hunter boots with my toothhrush.

if only Spring would hurry up. This time last week I was in Scotland, on the Tay. Just up river from Glendelvine Water where my heroine, Georgina Ballantine, caught her hig old salmon, nearly 69 years ago now. What a bloody long time ago. In 69 years from now I shall be dead and anyway the rivers will be barren.

Perhaps I should be a ghillie and get to fish all the time or anyway be near water and in the countryside where every vista feeds my eyes and calms my brain. But my Spey casting is not good enough for ghillieing despite the personal attentions of Ally Gowans last week. It was the sink tips that got me. You need sink tips to get the fly deep to the riverbed but dragging line off mighty salmon rivers is hard enough without a sink tip to weigh it down.

But anyway there were no salmon, not even Ally could raise them. His dog Bramble kept trying to swim out to his master whilst Teal, the ghillie's dog, peed on Bramhle's head in hetween fetching endless pebbles thrown for him by me. He chewed them with now blunt, 11-year-old teeth before returning them, glistening with dog spit, to my feet.

After fishing we all returned to Ally's house where he drank three cups of coffee and then showed us his web page where there is a picture of me tying an Ally's Shrimp fly. We saw his tackle cupboard, full of reels, none of them particularly fancy. His son, Andrew, ex-plained fish ladders (there is a fine one up the road at Pitlochry) that help salmon get upstream when the river is dammed. Then to 'Numpty's' for dinner. A fine dinner is all the finer after a good day's fishing. I ate haggis and drank whisky and Ally told us tale after tale of fish and folk and iokes he had played on everybody. He must be owed some, I thought. On the wall, above his head, was a cast of another fisherman's steelhead trout that had heen caught, incredibly, from the Tax On the way home from Pit-

lochry to Kinnaird we crossed an old railway bridge that spans the Tay Scottish skies always bave more stars, of that I'm sure. I looked down at the Tay and thought how wonderful she looked and how magical it would be to fish for salmon at night. A coal fire waited for us at home and we toasted marshmallows with makeshift toasting forks (I think they were laundry tongs), until our lips were pink with sugar. Regular sips of whisky were required to take away the sweetness, and regular melting pods of marshmallow were required to take away the sting of whisky. And so it went on.

The next day I had to ring the ghillie to say we could not fish before noon, due to religious reasons. That afternoon yielded no fish, but a bit of rain that streaked a rainbow across the sky. Then bags had to be packed, whisky bottles drained and trains caught. Back to town, back to grey and far away from rivers.

a barbieri@ independent.co.uk

Healey ban 'inadequate' England head rankings

the three-week ban imposed by Leicester on the scrum-half Austin Healey for stamping on his opposite number, Kevin Putt. during last weekend's Allied Dunbar Premiership match at Welford Road as "inadequate", writes Andrew Baldock.

The Exiles confirmed they will proceed with their citing against Healey for the incident which left Putt requiring six stitches above his right eye. It means that Healey, whose 21-day club suspension rules him out of two Five Nations' Championship matches with England and Leicester's Tetley's Bitter Cup quarter-final against Richmond, now faces the possibility of further disciplinary action.

The recommended Rugby Football Union punishment for stamping is 12 weeks, but anything up to a sixmonth ban could be imposed by Twickenham's disciplinary board Healey, capped 18 times, will be summoned to attend an RFU hearing

considerable spell oo the sidelines. Healey maintains that the 13thminute incident was "a complete accideot," even though television pictures clearly showed him trampling on Putt's face as the the South

African lay at the bottom of a ruck. The Exiles' management team met on Thursday night to discuss Leicester's internal disciplinary action, but were not appeased.

London Irish Rugby Football Club consider Austin Healey's explanation of his action last Saturday as unsatisfactory, and his suspension by Leicester Tigers as inadequate in the circumstances," said a club statement. "Accordingly: the matter is now in the hands of the Rugby Football Unioo."

The England coach, Clive Woodward, reacted to the Leicester ban hy leaving Healey out of his squad for today's Calcutta Cup match in the Five Nations against Scotland at of the squad until the matter is resolved by an RFU hearing," Woodward said. The decision is in the best interests of the player and the England squad." Leicester convened their own

disciplinary hearing last Monday within bours of Irish giving formal notice that they would be citing Healey. The four-man panel, which included the Tigers manager Dean Richards and their chief executive, Peter Wheeler, decided that Healey bad shown no wilful intent, but added that: "It was coosidered other actions could have been taken to avoid the contact".

The unsighted referee Graham Hughes took no action against Healey, while Putt opted for playing the incident down, describing it as "just one of those things". But, on further scrutiny of the match video, Irish chose the citing ophon, and Healey must now brace himself for severe consequences.

points for teams is based heavily on

can reap some benefit from a revolutionary ratings system which has predicted Five Nations glory for England. But, if the Welsh team are looking for a confidence boost before their clasb with Ireland at Wembley today, they should avoid casting a glance over the IBM World Rankings.

An extension of the Planet Rugby internet site, the IBM rankings offer ratings for international teams based over their last 12 matches. Not surprisingly the Tri-nations winners and World Cup favourites, South Africa, come out on top, with France the leading European nation in third. Player ratings have been added

following the start of the Five Nations' Championship, and the process will continue for every international match played across the globe. "We have a team of eight people, steeped in rugby history, who analyse every match in minute detail," explained Richard Pembroke, of the Datanet team which compile the statistical in-points." Similarly, the balance of point rout against France in Paris.

formation. "The whole process takes about 10 hours for one game, so it's very time-consuming. But over a period of time we hope to be able to show the strengths and weaknesses of each international team and their players. I'm sure coaches will find the information very useful." Pembroke admits that the

method used for assessing player performance may oeed some tinkering, owing to the discrepancies in scores of different positions. In the first round of Five Nations matches, Ireland's hooker Keith

Wood came out the top performer with 98.40 points, while Scotland's Paul Burnell managed only 58.40 as the highest scoring tight-head prop. Pembroke said: The most marks

are for core skills, which for a hooker would be hitting his line-out jumper and striking the ball in the scrum. If be makes tackles and breaks downfield with the ball as to 11th in the international list-and well, then he will receive bonus it is predicted they will suffer a 56-

them achieving their "core" aim of winning the match. Thus France increased their overall total by 18, despite their fortunate win over Ireland in Dublin. "If the French had won by as many as predicted, then their score would have gone up by about 40 points," said Pembroke, "As it was, they won an international match away from home, which still has some merit."

Another feature of the IBM rankings is a computer prediction for each match - if the results are accurate, England will take the Grand Slam, mainly thanks to a thrilling one-point win over France at Twickenham. Clive Woodward's med are confidently predicted to overwhelm Scotland by 32 points this weekend,

with Wales set to scrape past Ireland. The defeat of Graham Henry's team at Murrayfield dropped Wales

Route's touch of speed to trouble Mill

HOWARD JOHNSON could not BY RICHARD EDMONDSON believe his eyes yesterday. He had no more trust in Morceli's either. The Co Durham trainer watched at home as White Lea Farm's grey eminence fences perfectly before treating another as if it had retreated into his blind spot

"I just can't believe him." Johnson said. "He's jumping beautiful, like a hunny, and all of a sudden that happens, he just puts down. He's been checked all over bar his eyes and I just wonder whether he's got cataracts. He's certainly got me baffled."

There are no such worries about the Crook stable luminary, Direct Route. He competes at Ascot against Teeton Mill this afternoon in an effort to defray the costs of the other winnerless four who accompanied him in the van from the north-east in midweek. "Of all the horses I took down there this week Direct Route is tougher than the rest put together," Johnson said. "He went down on Wednesday, ate up and he didn't turn a hair. He's a freak this horse. He goes anywhere and it just doesn't bother him. He's got what it takes to be a Champi-

on Chaser without a doubt." And there is the crux. While Direct Route would probably see off Teeton Mill over that championship distance of two miles, the grey would earn the nod when the journey got up to three miles. Here they meet over an intermediate distance be that the horse bruised a foot and neither side will desire a hard race before next month's

"Mine should be all right, but we just want to get a blow into son added. "They'll both be ing sweetly. This eventuality body.

doing their best, but there could be a shock result you know. Just you watch, something will come past both of them tomorrow."

It is at times like this Norman Williamson must wish the the Dolly technology could be applied to Homo sapiens. He has ridden both Teeton Mill and Direct Route (and is also the regular pilot of another of today's runners, Super Coin) and can hardly have thought their paths would ever cross.

Teeton Mill has been suffering from a muscle ailment as well as the increased attention a horse of his quality generates. Frequent niggles are part of being a racehorse, and jumping animals are rarely in perfect

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: All The Aces (Newcastle 2.45) **NB:** Direct Route (Ascot 2.25)

cured condition and neither do trainers expect their charges to be 100 per cent every time they return from the gallops.

Those at Teeton Mili's yard have been genuinely shocked by the constant probing of the horse's condition, especially the emphasis placed on his idle days after the King George VI Chase at Kempton

The nuts and bolts seem to after Boxing Day and then hed up slightly during his first piece work back, a consequence of the muscle complaint. He was again absent in the aftermath

has hardly had the klaxons hlaring or lights flashing at Aramstone, though certain reports have been so grave it has been as if the 10-year-old was found with just the three legs in his box one morning.

If he is to succumb today, these trial ground hiccups are unlikely to be forwarded as excuses for Teeton Mill.

A further combatant, Challenger Du Luc, is now in danger of sliding off the end of the bar at the last chance saloon, and the remaining straws are that he is exercising well at home and may be suited by this unorthodox trip. Still he remains a horse referred to as enigmatic if you don't back him, or financially dangerous if you do. A surprise is possible, but neither outside the big two look to be sufficiently potent, or in requisite form, to carry it off. With the ground firming up, the balance has lately moved in favour of Direct Route (next best 2.25)

At Newcastle, the feature race is the Eider Chase, which will be just a second ride in Britain for the former New Zealand professional Michelle Hopkins, who partnered about 60 winners in seven seasons in days my friend. Hopkins now comes in for the mount on Ottowa and has most to fear from Young Kenny (3.50), for whom

no trip is too long. It is an old horse, however, who looks the card's, and the day's, hest bet, ALL THE ACES (nap 2.45) was 8lb out of the handicap but still fifth in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham in December, beaten just over 10 lengths by the winner. There might just be anhim before Cheltenham," John- of that but has since been mov- other victory in that veteran



Symbol Of Success carries Richard Johnson over Sandown's final fence to win the Stag Handicap Chase yesterday Julian Herbert/Allsport

Hanakham rusty in his Pipe opener

her native land. Those were the THE CHELITENHAM ratchet is BY RICHARD EDMONDSON now well and truly cranked up and horses are beginning to get gobbled up in the machinery. There is nowhere in the country that tests a horse's mettle more than Martin Pipe's Pond House, but this has been a had Hodges. The rust showed. week for the champion trainer.

Cyfor Malta, the Gold Cup and Grand National aspirant, has run out of time and will not perform again this season, while yesterday and Sandown showed that the clock is also proving a dastardly enemy for

The 10-year-old was having his first run for 709 days, and his first for Pipe, since collecting the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Chase of 1997 for Ron

Hanakham was deeply unimpressive at the first selection of obstacles, but soon pulled his way to the front as he showed great keenness. By the closing stages, however, the gelding's reserves were spent and first Symbol Of Success then Eulogy swept by him.

in the Gold Cup ante-post list, novice chase success, but the which saw several animals swarm past Hanakham as he was pushed out to 50-1 (from 25-1) by Coral. He remains at are sacrificed at the altar of 25-1 for the Grand National.

Pipe expressed himself are ruined by going round there very pleased with the per-"very pleased" with the performance of Hanakham, "The Gold Cup and the Grand National are still the plan," he said. "He got very tired and will come on bundles."

Coral reduced Jim Old's Dawn Leader to 10-1 from 12-1 told him to slow down he had for the Arkie Challenge Trophy 15 lengths in hand of Better

There was a similar pattern Novices' Chase following his Offer with a further nine back to Soloman Wave Rock, placed in each of eight-year-old has yet to be declared an official considerahis six starts over jumps, tion. Old said: "Lots of horses gained reward for his consis-

tency in the Cat & Mouse Cheltenham. Lots of horses Jim Culloty took the fourvear-old to the front at the secgo, but I don't want to ruin him ond-last and fended off the because he is a bit special. We favourite Tequila by a length. will sleep on it and drink too Henrietta Knight, his trainer,

said: "He deserved to get his there or thereabouts but he has just found one too good."

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ASCOT

1.20 Andsuephi 1.50 Castle Owen 2.25 Super Coin

3,30 Royal Predica (nb) 4.05 Magic Combination 4.40 Canasta 2.55 Santabless

GOING: Chases - Good (Good to Soft in places); Hurdes - Good to Soft (Soft in places) Right-hand course with testing uphil finish. III Course is near junction of A329 and A330, Access from M3 (June 3) and M4 (June 6) Railway station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course. ADMISSIONS Members £15 (17-25 year-olds half-price); Grandatand & Paddock £10; Silver Ring £5. CAR PARIC: No. 1, 2 & 3 ES (advance booking), remainder free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 21-94 (223%), M Pipe 15-81 (85%), K Bulloy 8 13-58 (224%), J Gifford 53-102 (127%), N Twiston-Davies 12-85 (A11%), ELEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 28-107 (25.2%), J Octobre 22-87 (25.2%), R Dun- 9 woody 21-121 (174%), N Williamson 17-79 (21.5%), A Maguire 17-85 (20%). # FAVOURITES: 130 was from 335 races (success rate 388%). BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Tira (visored, 405).

. —		
0	1.20	GERRARD GROUP REYNOLDSTOWN NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2) (A) £32,000 3m 110yds
1	-13153	BANK AVENUE (14) (D) (S D Hemstock) M Pitman 8 11 12
12	5-1621	LORD OF THE RIVER (55) (D) (B T Sewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7 ft 12
3	140P-1	ANDSUEPHI (23) (Mrs J A Cohen) S Sherwood 7 11 5 C Bradley date blue and pink (questional), shiped allowers
•	Peren	COLLIER BAY (31) (0) (W E Stort) J Old 9 TI 5
۱:	41735	MARLEOROUGH (7) (D) (BF) (Robert Ogden) H Dely 7 TI 5
6	33322	SPRENG DOUBLE (16) (Mrs. Lome Berryman) N Twisten-Davies 6 11 5

- E declared BETTING: 6-4 Lord Of The Filver, 15-8 Mart rough, 9-2 And ence, 20-1 Spring Double 1996: The Toxosch 7 tt 5 A Dobbin 11-4 (J Fansheve) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Bank Avenue: Winner of staying handicape at Worcester and Kempton and trip too sharp at Sandown last time (25-length 3rd to Hoh Express). Looks outclassed Lord Of The River: Made costly mistakes at Worcester and Lingfield and gened hard-bught win from Spandid at Kempton on Bosing Day Course to suit Andausphit Bumper and hurdles winner tor Charle Brooks. Looked a debut when beating Holdmiclose at Wincanton (2m5f). Can do better Cottler Ban; Has looked more at home over lances since out up in trix. Wan well from Sheer Dawn at Huntingdon last time and will find the ideal jumping gro ough: Strong puller and had race won when a faller two out at Haydock last Saturday More suited by today's longer top but trouble-free round needed.

Spring Double: Season 9 lengths by Mariborough at Kempton and 13-length 2nd to Cheerful Aspect at Towcoster (2m6) lost time, Needs to improve plonty.

VERDICT: Collier Bay is getting the hang of chasing after a suspect start and rates a big danger to LORIO OF THE RIVER, who continues to look at his best when given a test of stamma, which he gets today Martborough has a recent fall to overcome and these fences take some jumping, while Andewephil can only improve for the Windan-

1.50 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) BBC1 £30,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £20,111

	0.55	OUTSET (F-105) (U) (EIF) (Wark Kiner) M Himmond 9 22 ()	N Horrocks (
	9	ray, rad asple diamond, purple aboves, grey diamonds, rad cap, grey diamo	nds · ·
		POLAR PROSPECT (7) (& Mrs Don Last and Bill Yales) P Hobbs 8 11 13	
		red and emented green diamends	
	-33115	EFFECTUAL (7) (5) C Dicel Man V Williams 9 11 11	N WHENE
		amerald green, black hoops, helved shares, errorald green cap	
	0-1403	SADLER'S REALM (7) (0) (8D Roung) P Hotels 8 11 8	A Duminoot
		blue and white flaked), white sleeves, royal blue source, rad and white the	
		MOONDIGUA (14) (D) (BF) (Solden Step Feering 1) M Pipe 7 11 6	
		brose royal blue spots, royal blue aleanes, drange apolis, myal blue cap, on	
		GLOSE FURNISH (14) (D) (G & P Barler Enghanning) JJ Orleads 1: 9	
		Well blue, and cross of breaks and showle, constant coo	
	·11453	BLUEDONIX (FR) (21) (C) (Mrs David Thompson) D Nicholson 8 to 11	M A Fitzment
		pink, purple cross belts, hooped steeres, purple cap	
	1P12/1	ISMENO (16) (D) (Mrs A M Uputel) D Eleverti 8 10 10	P Hole
		John take, black cross bein and arroken	
	35-m	CASTLE OWEN (31) (Lord Vester) D Nicholson 7 10 8	A Theorete
		royal CALA, while alripsed always	
0	-53320	MISTER FM (7) (F J Miss & Mr W Miss) N Thinkon-Daviss 7 107	
•		marcon and light thee diabolo, light hive aloness, quartered cap	
ı	5003	DARBELA FOR DATA Maureen Wilson A L Moore (N) 5 10 1	CCO
		light taken and clark taken diamonds, clark taken alcovers, light taken corp.	,
2	H221-	SUPREME GENOTIN (\$12) (D) (WE Sturt) JOH 10 10 1	_7.J 2hands
		durk blue and white check, durk blue stoores, white cap, durk blue star	4 -me la
		- 12 declared -	

BETTING: 41 Sedier's Rentm, 9-2 Durbels, 5-1 Castle Guers, Moondigue, 8-1 Globe Russes, Inmans, 10-1 Effectual, 12-1 Bluerlooks, 14-1 Polar Program, 20-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Outset: Stiff task with 12st and first outing since a run on the Flat in November Polar Prospect: Gerne winner at Sandown (2m) and fine 2nd to Rainwatch at Chol-terham (2m)). Exposed at Newbury last Saturday when 6th to Decoupage Effectual: Stayed on after being hampered when 5th to Decoupage at Newbury last Saturday. Up in trip and boatable at the weights

at Newtury (2m) a week ago. Puris off 4th higher mark but great chance Moondigua: Gambled on Irist start for Marin Pipe at Vierwick (2m4t) but dee ing tarourite (headed two out) when pur behind Teleatral at Sandown (2m8t) (2m6f). Black over ideal trip and goes well for his 7th clarmer

as course win in December. Must be on short list in first handcap

tonibe Has faced stiff tasks leasand Barton and Major Sponsor last time) since

sentino: Put up good show to we fold race at Towcester after a languay byoth in stronger race today, hence the 18th less on his back Castle Owen: 7th higher mark for the hat-trick wer at Numbrigdon (Grd Allez Wijins wasner since). Stayes that trip well and ready for the step up in class.

Marker Rin: Consistent but usually falls short in the decent races. 2nd to Tutchey at Kempton and held by Sadler's Regim on latest form. Longer trip also a worry it 2m Flat winner and 5-length winner in big field at Leopardatown (2m2i) on Boxing Day Lightly-weighted progressive mans from a strong stable Supreme Genotin: Pitted in a strong race for his comeback attempt, he first start since

VERDICT: This is a tight race with Sadler's Realin turned out quotity after last Saturday's second to Decoupage. The trip is more suitable but he has to give weight to decent types such as Castle Owers, Bloedonblend Insh raider DARBELA, who looked ive at Leopardstown over Ctristmas and a mare who halls from a stable that

2.25 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN ASCOT CHASE (Grade BEGY

-		1) (A) £62,000 added 2m 3f 110yds £36,900
	OF-404	CHALLENGER DU LUC (FFG (cs) (D.A.Johnson; M.Pye 9 11 7
	20203	CHEEP'S SCAIG [S4] (CD) (May Aven Dented) S Dow 8 11 7
	11-22	DESECT ROUTE [54] (Caris Heron) J.H. Johnson 8 11.7 R Dummondy yellow and and pulson instead alexange values cap
	1-254	LAKE KARBA (54) (PF) (P K Barter, A Cobon, T Cury) P Nichols 8 tt 7
	P-4P00	SENOR EL BETRUTTI (71) (CD) (Cerad Nock) Mrs. S Nock 10 11 7
	13-101	SUPER COOK (20) (CO) (George Brookes) R Lee 11 17

white, black sterms, white and valour halved alreads, velicer care BETTEKS: \$4 Teston Mill, 94 Direct Flouts, 6-1 Super Cols., 7-1 Challenger Du Luc, Lake Karlbs. 20-1 Senor El Betratti, 25-1 Chief's Song 1998: One Man 10 11 7 A Dobbin 7-4 (G Michards) 9 san

FORM GUIDE

21-115 TEETON MILL (MIS) (The Winning Line) Mise V Williams 10 11 7...

Challenger Du Luc: Taled off behind Teeton MIII in King George at Kempton less time. Hes the talent but still heed to famoy today even over his ideal trip Chief's Songe Runs his best races on this course and creditable 2nd to Red Marauder over C&D on latest visit. Trip (2m) too short last time but highly tried today Direct Route: Best in fast-run 2m nace and Sandown proved ideal when he carne late to best Edredon Eleu. Good run ageinst Cumbrian Challenge next time

ing lest time). Tricky to assess now that he's stepped up in trip. Senor El Betrutti: Has struggled in handcape (tailed off behind Tamerindo lest time) ance his dual wins at Challenham lest term. Wan over C&D as a novice ence its due wins at Cristomasm ask term, with over dail as a novice: Super Colic Winner of last years Midmay Of Fieto over similar trip and goes well have (beet Big Matr in October). Hardy sort sure to go well again. Yeaton 1888: Hugely impressive in Hermosey and King George and attempts to emu-late One Man in his bid to win over a shorter trip. Must take the beeting. VERDICT: Direct Route and Lake Karibs seem more effective over two miles so

it could be the course lower Super Coin and Senor El Betruttl who will test TEETON MILL, who looks good enough to eithe over the shorter trip after his brillent wins in the Hennessy and King George.

2.55 IDEAL PRINTERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 25,000

-		audeu ziit i ivyda Pelizity value 13,003	
	1-1214	HOH INVADER (65) (7) (D FAlbort) Ciliam 7 11 10	Magazi
	1PZ	RENZO (63) (CO) (Charters Ltd; Jf. Hards 6 11 10	D Gelieche
	. 113	MEDIALLE MELITAIRE (112) (D) (SP) (James Hartrett) & Pipe 7 11 7	10sbaro
	C-125	SANTABLESS (30) (3) (0 9 Arnold & D J Goodmen) M Please 6 TI 7	_ X VErren
	200-12	BUCKSIDE (21) (07) (BF) (Queen Blasbeth) N Handeson 7 11 4	MARkmenid
		RESOURCE (1907) Puts Stephene Smith J Old 6 11 4	T.J. Silvenia
		CAUSEWAY BAY (P151) (Zero 3 Recing) 8 Dow 4 to 8	J.R.Kampech
	CC3	TURNITY CARSON ING IDON Perturbins D Floorth 4 108	

1998: Gray Shot 6 Ti 7 R Darwoody 8-11 fav 6 Baldingi 9 ran

FORM VERDICT The state of the ground at post time could have a major effect on the outcome of this race and it is gets much worse, Mediatie Militaire could be inconvenienced most EUCKSIDE is favoured by today's race conditions and further rain would not be a problem, so he gate The water. Territory Corson could reward each waty backers at big odds

3.30 SHENLEY ENTERPRISES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m Penalty Value £10,260 20212 EAGLES REST (20) (DF) (Lindy Lloyd Webber) N Handerson 9 11 12 ... M A Plager

SAAPSI FROMAL PRIEDICA (FR) (FO) (F A Deed) M POE 5 TO 8. - 5 declared -BETTHIG: 9-4 Royal Prodice, 11-4 Engles Root, Gris D'Estra RER: Champione 5 10 8 A P McCoy 15-8 for (N Pipe) 4 res

much whisky on it."

Dawn Leader led all the

way, and by the time the line

All eyes will be on Gris D'Estruvel today but he taxes a stiff task against the Bles of Ea-

4.05 ASCOT FOOTBALL CLUB CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £5,000 added 2m 4f £3,550

— 7 declared —
Windraw weight: 10st. True handicup weight: Adhov Bat 4th.
BETTING: 6-4 Margic Combination, 3-1 Winston Ren, 4-1 Door To Door, 5-1 Alica Intercetional, 11-2 ery, 12-1 Ter. 25-1 Addies

ealings 8 10 10 L Cammies 4-1 fev (G Hubbard) 15 ran FORM VERDICT

The ones to concentrate on should dominate the market, namely litagic Combination, Wis-aton from and OCOR TO DOOR, The top-weight is fanced to further his reputation by gru-ing upwards of 100 all round on his way to the Festival next month.

4.40 ASCOT EXSERVICE MEN'S CLUB STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 2m 110yds £2,505

1 CAMASTA (74) (D) (D B Amold 8 D J Goodmen) M Pibron 5 ti 11 AMTOLIE GOLD (Pibric Bowling) P Hobbs 5 ti 4 AMTOLIE GOLD (Pibric Bowling) P Hobbs 5 ti 4 AMTOLIE DRESMI (M E Surgi) Clids ti 4 AMTOLIE DRESMI (M E Surgi) Clids ti 4 AMTOLIE (DISMI LOUIS (Ibry Fear & Mr Patrick Quart) P Hobbs 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Gold) P Hobbs 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Gold) P R Webber 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Gest) P R Webber 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Gest) P R Webber 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Gold) P R Webber 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Placestr) J Gifford 5 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Placestr) J Gifford 5 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Gold) P R Webber 6 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Result) J Gifford 5 ti 4 AMTOLIE (Louis Result) P Result J D Bartop 5 ti 4 AMTONE VALLEY (Christopher Herra) I Williams 5 to ti 3 AMTONE VALLEY (Christopher Herra) I Williams 5 to ti 3 NATIVE VALLEY (Oristopher Herra) I Williams 5 to 13.
THE ESZZ (221) (J. F. Parvent) J. Parvent 8 to 13......

RETTING: 5-4 Canasta, 11-4 Roman Lord, 7-2 Wild About You, 14-1 Brave Drawn, Paddy Clyde, 20-1 Wood Hall, 26-4 Native Valley, 33-1 others 1882: Index Spring 6 Ti 6 A P McCoy 5-4 fav (M Pipe) 24 rati FORM VERDICT

Mark Planan has a whole host of good bumper horses and Cacasta, who was really impressive on his debut, could well be the best of from However, all his previous winners have been beaten under their peratiles next lime out and he is opposable at what is Belly to be a short price. Roman Lord's form was cleak a blow yesterday and it could be worth taking a chance on one of the neuronners, of which PADDY CLYDE is just preferred to Brave Onesm.

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Compton Amber 7.30 U-No-Harry 8.00 Baron De Pichon 8.30 Infamous 9.00 Bapsford 9.30 Copper Shell

STALLS: Insich. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low to middle best for 7i Thresand, left hand, ovel course.
Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station fm. ADMIS-SION: Club £15; Tattersals £8 (£2 off for OAP members of Demond Cub); Restaurant package prices £1750 to £3595 including course entrance and meal. CAR PARKs free.

entrance and meal CAR PARK: free.

ELEADING TRAINERS: R Hollimited 63-571 (121%), N Littmode
49-361 (135%) M Johnston 47-242 (194%). P Evans 41-401 (122%)
ELEADING JOCKEYS: S Senders 43-301 (128%). Deen Mickey 35
305 (125%), J Wesver 34-200 (77%). D Holland 31-133 (123%).
EFAVOURITES: 482-1486 (12.5%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Mazzelmo, Formidable Flame (3.30).

1.		
1	7.00	PROVINCIAL IN STAFFORDSHIRE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3YO 60
1		EFFANCEMAL (1985 A Bailey 90
Ŀ	,	TIFFAMORE (USA) K Surley 90
В	s con	BREEZY MELODY (24) 6 MoMeton 89 Y Hallday 8
17		COMPANY AMERICA MANAGE & STATES & STATE
П	5 00.5323	CHARLES BLUSH (17) N Litmoden 8 9 T G NICLESCHEN /
		INPTOTELLOW M Sauders 99
13	0005	WEETHAIN (122) J Gwen 8 9 Fanning 4
П		= 7 declared -

1 University ## 1 University ## 1 District ## 1 Electronic Blust, 12-1 Electronics, 15-1 Westmin, 20-1 Greeny Melody

FORM VERDICT

A week meden to start the card, COMPTON AMBER looks a fair re-

7.30 PROVINCIAL IN CHESHIRE CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (F) \$2,750 1m 100yds 30364 MUTAHADETH (12) (D) D Start 5 9 12 _J Fanning € 8

TWHEN 7 B 4 300-00 FEEL A LINE (33) M Suity 5 9 8 _____ 303445 SLIP JIG (10) K Bute 6 9 6 6 3000- U-NO-HARRY (52) R Holinshout 5.95 _______ D Sweeney 12 7 5700- BABY SPICE (96) (C) R.Johnson Houghton 4.95 A Cultume 6.8 CCCCC- MULLACH HILL LAD (96) (C) N Ligmoden 58 4 ___ II Thomas (7) 9 10 3-529 FAYM (12) (C) Mas S Witton 5-93 _____ J P Spancar (2) 3 11 60006 BORN A LADY (5) N Lettroden 6 9 D _______ 7 G McLaughlin 1

-13 declared -SETTING: 11-4 Feyra, 11-2 Shatshadeth, Silp Jig, 6-1 Hi Majtanid, 8-1 U-No-Herry, Authoritie Lady, 10-1 Mister Philips, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

2 00004 ASHBRITTLE LADY (A.G.C. Commit 3 7 13 ______ A Day (5) 2

13 8-4440 LAKE HEHRA (19) M Tomplets 97 13

his stamma is a cause for concern, but his talented pilot should be able

8.00 BET WITH PROVINCIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 100yds

2234 SUNDACH (24 (CD) RHOWS and 8 TO 0____ 22-25 ROUSH STLENDOUR (14) 5 Dow 4 81 P Dee (3) 7
2000- MCNO LADY (197) (C) (D) D Heydri Jones 5 8 to A Mackey 6
0323-3 COOL PROSPECT (E) K Ryan 4 89 A Coffee 3

5 000-62 TITTA RUPPO (12) D Shar 5 5 2 _____ J Paradhig 4 8 6 -2mm BARON DE PICHON (22) (CD) N Libraden 3 T 13 _____ J Outen 1 7 000-05 NEVER GOLF GLORY (12) (D) C Kalen 5 7 10 _____ T Williams 5 _____ 7 declared - BETTING: 8-4 Baron De Pichos, 4-1 Scattach, Rolate Sptandout, 3-2 Cool Prospect, 7-1 Time Polite, 10-1 Herry Golf Glory, 20-1 Mono Lady FORM VERDICT BARON DE PICHON, the improving 3yo, may be able to cook a smook at the Handicapper. Tata Rutto shaped well over what boiled an in-

adequate trip last time and may be the biggest threat but Suebach has to be leared after his good win here last time

8.30 PROVINCIAL FOR CREDIT BETTING H'CAP (CLASS F) \$3,000 added 2m 15-154 PARADISE NAVY (12) (CD) C Egenton 10 10 D. Sophic Mitchell 5 8

-9 declared -Minkown weight 7g 19th. Tope handley weight Miss Lecroix 7a 6th. BETTING: 4-1 Mach One, 9-2 Paradise News, 5-1 Infamous, 13-2 Formidable Plane, 7-4 Dergo, Hervey White, 6-1 Obtact Steven, 15-1 Others

00-03 FORMICABLE FLAME (14) C Ham S 8 D___

RAFAMOUS should go ned returning to the CSD where he was second on his parultimate start off a mark considerably higher team the one he runs of toright. Paradise Havy is an attenuative but this is a race where stales should be heat to a minimum.

9.00 PROVINCIAL IN SHROPSHIRE SELLING STAKES (G) \$2,200 edded 1m 1f 79yds 1 02-162 BAPSFORD (14) (C) M Wattg 5 9 5

2 25040 ADRPOUR (\$14) R Hollinshead 5 8 13 _______ A Culture 12 3 2000-6 AMBER REGENT (84) (C) Mar S Welco 4 8 3 _____ S Whitmorth 5 4 ORZO- CHARLE CHANG (AST) 9 Linearys 9 8 13 R Herito 13 5 3603-6 CROFTERS EDGE (85) A James 4 8 13____ M'Telbert & B \$ 05-000 DARRING NEWS (8) O CTNoil 48 10 _____ G000- GOLDSTAR (142) P Exclas 4 8 13 D McGaffin (7) 3 5 05000 NET D'OR (14) (C) M Warty 48 3. ______ T G McLaughlin 48 10 550Q- TOP ROOR (J19) J Spearing 4813 ____ TI 6 CONTRACT GIRL (33) 8 Leavy 5 6 8.... N Cardala S 12 SOC-00 THE WILD WINDOW (25) H College 569 ____ G Facilities (5) 2 13 00500 TOWNYLLE CEE CEE (17) G Woodward 4 6 8 ___ \$ Flighbo (7) 11

- 13 declared -SETTRACE 6-4 Sepalant, 7-2 Yap Floor, 7-1 Amber Regent, Costern Edge, 8-1 The Wild Widow, 12-1 Charlie Chang, 16-1 Adirpour, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

This is going to take little wireing and the penalised BAPSFORD looks

FORM VERDICT 9.30 PROVINCIAL IN DERBYSHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

— 11 declared —

60th/mun recigit: 7st 100. The Handicap weight: Morcury 7st 40.

BETTHIG: 5-2 insteads General, 11-4 Copper Shelt, 7-2 Half Tide, 6-1 Prents
Dence, 7-1 Two On The Bridge, 10-1 Mysterlum, 12-1 Shifting, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT COPPER SHELL seems on good terms with himself at present end this looks a good opportunity for him to follow up a good C&O win lat-est. Half Tide would appear to be the main danger and it should be close between the two.

Eskenham continued its practice of using an outrider to help with safety on the track yesterday. The use of an outrider has been put forward as a possible way of preventing incidents such as that which resulted in three horses being killed at Sedgefield on Tuesday. Fakenham has always used an outrider, whose functions include rounding up loose horses.

The Tote's betting on the 120 at Ascot: 6-4 Lord. Of The River, 15-8 Marlborough, 9-2 Andsuephi, 6-1 Collier Bay, 16-1 Bank Avenue, 20-1 Spring Double.

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PUNTERS' GUIDE

Steve Smith Eccles analyses this afternoon's William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Ascot



since a run on the Flat last November. Polar Prospect: Disappoint-

ing lately and well below par in the Tote Gold Trophy. This trip could prove too far.

Effectual: Fifth in the Tote Gold Trophy and sure to be better suited by this two and a half miles over a stiffer

Sadler's Realm: Stayed on

strongly to finish third behind Decoupage in the Tote Gold Trophy and ahould run a big race over this longer trip. Moondigua: Something was obviously amiss when he was pulled up at Sandown, but this

er chance. Glube Runner: A consistent sort who ran a good fourth to Teaatral at Sandown and has each-way prospects.

Irish import is worth anoth-

Bluedonix: Not disgraced when third to the highlyregarded Barton at Doncaster but this progressive novice may be up against it in this competitive handicap.

Ontset: Fitness could fail Ismeno: Ran a cracker when this individual, off the track winning by 13 lengths at Towcester after a two-year break. You can never discount one of David Elsworth's runners.

Castle Owen: Unbeaten in his three starts this season and clearly on the upgrade. However, he must improve again to figure here.

Mister Rm: Well beaten in the Tote Gold Trophy but this extra half-mile could be just what he needs.

Darbela: Arthur Moore has not sent this mare over from Ireland for a picnic. She won at Leopardstown last time and eoters calculations off a light weight. Supreme Genotin: Report-

edly plagued by back trouble. so one to avoid.

Conclusion: Darbela must be respected on the strength of her victory at Leopardstown, while Moondigua must figure if firing on all cylinders. However, the one they all have to beat is SADLER'S REALM, staying on strongly in the Tote Gold Trophy and sure to relish this extra half-mile.

ASCOT

1.20: ANDSUEPHI could be anything after an easy win against weaker rivals at Wincanton. He will start at decent odds and the 71b he gets from Lord Of The River is a plus.

1.50: Robert Thornton has just the one ride before travelling on to Warwick and it looks a winning one with CASTLE OWEN carrying iust 10st 8lb after rattling up a hat-trick in a lower league. The gelding's stablemate Bluedonix looks dangerous in his first handicap, and Irish raider Darbela also makes some appeal with a feather weight.

2.25: Teeton Mill comes down in distance and might just struggle when the tempo increased. Norman Williamson will be wary of his old mate SUPER COIN, who always runs a stormer on this course and was successful with a big weight at Haydock last time. Mick Fitzgerald takes the ride and will be turning on the heat aside by the Pipe horse at the from the home turn.

NEWCASTLE

2.45: LISTEN TIMMY failed to handle the heavy going when a distant fifth to Step On Eyre at Wetherby last time, but the prospect of better ground today can trigger a revival of the jumping skills that saw this hig 10-year-old score a Uttoxeter hat-trick last season.

3.30: Peter Monteith holds fresh so he rates a worthy bet LORD PODGSKI in high regard. This course winner missed almost all of last season with a knee injury but his reappearance last seanow, after twice finishing son and later gained a sucbehind Crystal Gift in heavy- cess from Jibber The Kibber ground races at Avr this sea- on this course.

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS son, looks set to reverse the

form and make his mark in decent company.

3.50: Young Kenny is the apple of Peter Beaumont's eye and this eight-year-old's second to the improving Step On Eyre at Wetherby last month was a very smart display. THE LAST FLING, a talented hurdler whom Sue Smith held such high hopes for over fences, has lately been a hitter disappointment. But at long odds, it could be worth giving him a a final chance now he steps up to this marathon trip.

WARWICK

UNSINKABLE BOXER rattled off the Cheltenham-Aintree hurdles double and is set to show his chasing worth now that he gets a suitable test of stamina. Spendid is very tough but he was easily brushed festival.

4.10: TRESOR DE MAI didn't beat much at Lingfield but he did it in the style of a horse who can shine in a stronger league. He gets his chance today against the talented Kempton winner Flagship Uberalles.

4.40: WITH IMPUNITY has the knack of winning when against the likely warm favourite The Outback Way. He trotted up at Aintree on

	1989	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	. 38
Fate of the favouriles:	. 4	3	Α-	7	1	A	F	5	1	3
Winner's place in bottle	g: 3	0	`~A	<u>0</u>	ī	A	-3-	· 0	٦,	- I
Starting-prices:	n-2	13.	- ₄	16-1	3-1	Ā	41	<u>4.</u> ۲	7-1	9.2
Winners' weights:	911	100	Α	97	10D	Ā	1Ç6	977	#13	120
Winners ages:	8	8	Ā		9	Ā	12	.3	_6	Ţ-
Profit or loss to £1 atal	e: Fav	ount	15 - 1	100	Seco	nd Fe	vourit	12· 86	225	
Percentage of winners	placed	161.	2nd	or 3rd	in la	st rec	e: 75°	'o	-	_
Shortest-priced winner:	Sever	Tove	ors (T	997 · 2	-1		- -	A =	abaro	cned
Language artificial relations	District	- Disk	- 400	- Table			- 4-4	. = -	- F	

10-YEAR-TALE ON THE EIDER CHASE

Top trainer: No maner has wen this race more than once in the past it years Top lockey: P Niven (2) - Westerd (1995) Seven Towers (1987) FIRST SHOW

	-	-	-	-	-
A	\$ C	т	1.51	0	
	C	Н	L	9	T
Cartela	92	92	9-2	9-2	9-2
Saciler's Reside	41	9-2	9-2	41	92
Castle Oven	41	51	92	9.	92
Mocredigus	\$1	9:	92	5-1	5-t
Globe Rumer	10-1	11-1	11-1	Ų.	11-1
Ismeno	9.1	91	0:	16-1	17-1
Effectual	12-1		10-1	0	12-1
Bluedonb	14-1	C -1	141	21	9.1
Sup. Genotin	16-1	MIT	15-1	20-1	14:
Polar Prespect	20-1	14-1	€1	€!	15-1
Minter Rad	25-1	.n.	27.1	25-1	28-1
Outsyl	33-1	234	χ_{i}	25-1	3)-1
Each age a quarter the oasts staces 1 . 1					
C Corat H W3aa	n HE L	LATE	tes 5	·244	T de

41

NEWCASTLE 2.45						
	C	Ħ	£	5	T	
Sparky Guyle	1-2	3.7	11-1	7-2	7-2	
All The Ages	9-2		72	62	11	
Listen Territy	11-2	11-2	11-2	_FI	5-1	
Castin Cort	61	13-2	61	61	13-2	
Turyessiny Toli	•	7.5	_74_	. X.	3.	
Chiopad Out	71	G-2	64	_::	_71	
Lord Dercei	3.	8-1	81		8-1	
Catalana Choir	8-1	8-1	8.1	91	91	
	250-1			==-	200-1	
Market waren	300-1				300-1	
F	a len s	200	200	siij		

A	S C (тς	2.25	5	
	C	н	L	5	T
Toolon Mil	TI-8	54	11-6	5-4	5-4
		74		₩.	54
Super Colo		_==		6-1	8-1
Lake Karby					9-1
Chadl. Do Luc	14-1	12:1	Ø:	2AT	4.1
Senor & Butruth	3.7	33-1	교-1	33-1	33-1
Chief's Scarg	40-I	33-1	50-1	n.	20-1
Estimate a	CHEC	r-e0	da. 20	ces : .	7

74 E 48	UΑ	STL	.E 3	. 50	
	_c	H	L	_ 5	_ 1
Young Keary	9-2	41	90	9.2	
Serta Concerto	6-1	٠.	5.	54	9.
Parahamiy	7.5		\$:	8-1	7.5
Peter	€ -1	#.;	7-:	7.5	B-1
Full of Ques	1.1	3-1	-51	\$	9-1
Hoffytalen Buch	6 :	5-1	3-1	Ę.	31
Nagley Felors	-1	7-1	10-1		10-1
Flakec Cass	447	Z-1	r.	71-1	7.
Feets Like Sold	16-1		W-:	14.	141
The Last Fing	20-1	20-1	20-1	201	20-1
icogh Test	8.	8:	6-:	T -1	20-1
CERTIFIE	Z3-1	331	3.	3:	3-1
Estrano	40-1	Z :	r-	3	33:
Alt Dalay	50-1	50-1	50- 1	5-1	5 1
Acresy Truth	50-1		201	31	Ξ.

NEWCASTLE

HYPERION 1.35 Dangerman 2.10 Ackzo 2.45 Listen Timmy 4.50 Five Flags 3.20 LORD PODGSKI (nap)

FORM VERDICT

2.10 NORTHUMBRIAN WATER ST OSWALD'S HOSPICE NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 added 2m 4f £2,537

ACKZO's Chetterham entry locks optimistic, but at this level he looks one to keep a close

	2	.45	'CAMAIR CRUSADER' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,500 added 2m 4f £8,514	C4
	1		SPARKY GAYLE (84) (CD) (Mrs Raymond Ancieron Green) C Parker 6 12 emerald green, yellow such and star on cap	
	2	52-654	LORD DORCET (21) (John Hogg) J Charton 9 11 5	R Supple
	3	-3101P	CHIPPED OUT (21) (D) (Commo Racing) M Todhunter 9 11 0	Harding
	4	20-425	ALL THE ACES (70) (CD) (J.P. McMerus) J.J. O'Neil 12 11 01	R MicGrath
ļ	5	4P3F5	LISTEN TRANSY (NZ) (37) (0) (The Sentinel Cub) S Brookshaw 10 10 13 — dark blue and yellow (halved), hooped Skerves, yellow cap	A Dobbie
	6	103-53	CELESTIAL CHOIR (14) (CD) (Mrs Carole Sylves) J.L. Eyre 9 to 9	S Dyesici
	7	1-4360	TULLYMURERY TOFF (zi) (CO) (LH Wison and JH Rieg) J M Jafferson 9 dan blue and light green check, light green slewest and cap	10 S.L.L Wye

3.50 The Last Fling 4.20 Barnburgh Boy

GOING: Good to Saft.

rvis	(visored, 450).					
1	.35	TOTE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,453				
1 2	003	BIG ATOLL (NZ) (7) (Startey W Clarke) 6 Brookshaw 7 11 4				
i	6465	CARBONADO (SE) (T P Tate) 7 Tate 5 11 4 Callaghan				
1	0.55	CARTOFT DANCER (35) (Miss Jayne Surley) 7 Emberby 6 11 4L Wyer				
-	1-0F42	CHIEF WARDANCE (26) (D) (Mrs. Jerraler Woodward) Mrs. S Larryman 5 11 4 R Partent.				
ğ	363F4P	CLAVERDIG (7) (Mrs. Karen Woodheed) E Care 9 11 4 Mr 10 Fector				
,	0000	COOLAMILL (80) (Lady Arms Berancki O Bremon 7 tt 4				
9	PP2-0	DANTES GLEN (21) (Mrs D C Greg) L Lungo 5 11 4				
6	OF-05	EAGLE CANYON (22) (The Swan Partnership) S Brookshaw 6 tt 4 B Dareck				
10	0-0	FRYUP VISION (33) (John Leese) Mrs J Brown 5 11 4G Lee				
Ħ	4FP	GOLDENBROWN SUN (21) (J L. Recarg) M Tochurter 5 11 4				
2	6-4	MR TEDOY EDWARDS (130) (Mrs Jane Dwyer) Mrs J Brown 6 11 4 P Miver				
13		MY DESPERADO (7) (D) (Wile Smith) L Lloyd-James 9 Tl 4				
14		PORMOC (FR) (115) U Dunnel M Hammond 5 tt 4				
15	. 5	ROYAL CHIP (717) (Ars J M L Milgan) Mas K Milgan 7 11 4 F Leaby				
16	404-00	SERENADE (50) (P Spottewood) P Spottewood 5 11 4 K Johnson				
27	_	TEME VALLEY (P234) (Eddie Storton) Mry A Steriberk 5 11 4				
16		TEZAAB (201) (Langho Recing Permantho) M Barres 5 11 4				
16	U40,	THE GIPPEL (28) (Lord Derestury & J.E. Greenalth C. Grant 5 11 4				
20 21	220214	DANGERMAN (26) (CD) (Signes J Curte) M W Easterby 4 to 13 C McConnect (4)				
22	2000 M	LIPSTICK RED (7) (R Auto) W Storey 5 10 IS				
	0400	-22 decisred -				
RF7	TIME 0.2	Big Atoll, 5-1 Dangarman, 11-2 My Desperado, 13-2 Chief Wardence, 9-1 Eagle Carryon,				
Post	ic. 12-1 C	articit Dencer, 14-1 Dante's Gion, 16-1 Calue, 20-1 The Global, Tenne Valley, 25-1 others				
		oht 5 ti 6 P Carberry 3-1 (J J C Nell) 16 ren				
	-	-				

Keep an eye on Pomic, who was above average in Prence and is well in on his change from, but the sale but is probably MY DESPERADO. She is no good thing under a penalty but is progressed and will have no irouble showing her form under today's conditions.

FORM VERDICT

eye on A shade unaucky against a progressive rivel at Caterioric sist mile, he ought to be well suited by today's conditions and, unlike market invol Decha, his ability to see the trip out is assured. Comporation Pop takes the eye as an each-way option						
2	.45	'CAMAIR CRUSADER' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £12,500 added 2m 4f £8,514				
1		SPARKY GAYLE (84) (CD) (Mrs Raymond Ancierson Green) C Parker 6 12 0 8 Storey energial green, yellow such and ster on cap				
2	52-654	LORD DORCET (21) Lichn Hogg) J Charton 9 ti 5				
3	-3101P	CHIPPED OUT (21) (D) (Commo Racing) M Todhunter 9 11 0				
4		ALL THE ACES (70) (CD) (LP McMerus) J J O'Neil 12 11 0				
5	4-P3F5	LISTEN TAMEY (N2) (37) (D) (The Sentinel Club) S Brookshaar 10 10 13				
•	1117.53	PER ESTINAL CHOICE AND ACCOUNTS CARROLL Furg C 100				

White, royal bus spots, purple steems and carp

- 10 declared —

Affairnum weight: 10sz. Troe handiony weights: Easies Mar And Stb, Monsughey Man Dat Stb.

BETTING: 7-2 Sparky Gayle, 9-2 AS The Accs, Tullymany Tott, 11-2 Listen Throny, 6-1 Castle Colo.,
13-2 Lead Dorost, 7-1 Chippad Out, 6-1 Calestial Chok, 250-1 others
1569. Sho Charm 8 9 to Mr M Brachume, 57-72 (Mrs S Brachume) 6 ran

DORAL CHIPCE

COLORAD CH

FORM GUIDE

Sparky Gayle: Dropped 5b since pulling up in Hernessy (\$m28, good to exit) in November after exid seasonal debut. Previous the novice company included second to Super Coln over today's destance in 1938 Matrinay of Flets at Chellenham
Lord Doncet: Former ement two-miler (third in 1998 Champlon), lately out of sorts, including states distant fourth in Doncaster handicap (2m, good to soft). Chipped Oat: Has won two 2m4t handicaps from front this term but unable to dominate when pulled-up in Great Yorkshire of Doncaster (3m, good to soft).

All The Acea: Mud-loving visteran, great run from 8b out of handicaps to be 10 lengths fifth in Trample, Promising novice but disappointing in handicaps the term. Jumped poorly to be 40 lengths fifth at Watherby (3m1), hearn) last month.

Calestial Choin: Consistent freve but has reportedly had breathing problems. Best westered on basis of very site dropped out at Watherby (2m4), good to soft). Tullymumy Tofft: Knee injury has informated career of former fine funder. Finished 42 lengths behind Major-Bell in Great Yorkshire at Doncaster latest

Castle Coln: Tind to Boss Doyle over 5m 11 at Alittree test year when trained by Alden Officer and shore a winner over today's trip for new connections. No Impact when pulling up at Kempton (3m, gd to soft) in October

Exchae Main: Talled-off latest in Kelso handicap, no better propects today Monsughyth Main: No-hope; 35th out of handicap, pulled up at Ayr lest time

VERDICT: Sparky Gayle, eithough running a poor race in the Hannesey, had FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: Spericy Gayle, elthough running a poor race in the Hannessy, had previously shown promise. CASTLE COIN's tack of a recent run should not inconvenience him as he has previously won after a long break and comes from a stable with a fine record at this track. He looks well-handicapped judged on useful form in

3.20 RUINART CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP HURDLE C4 (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f £6,756

Flight, 6-1 Over the Sects, 12-1 Cotectows Boy, Gun'n Roses, 14-1 Double Agent 1998: Author 7 9 10 lift 10 McPhal (S) 2-1 if Murphy 6 nan FORM GUIDE

Jamelican Flight: Rere poor affort from Market Raisen specialist to be 21 langths fourth to Ceracol in a handicap there (2m 31, soft) back in December Robbo: Progressive type who met little opposition when alcating home by 26 lengths in an Ayr (2m 41, soft) handicap last time. 4th rise in weight dose not look excessive Guin's Roses. French import whose previously improving form took a drive when he ran as it something arrass to be pulled up at Wetherby (2m, good) last December. Lord Richfield: Should appreciate increase in the after finishing 12 lengths fourth to Caulier in an Ayr (2m, heavy) handicap with Crystal Gift (2h worse of in 10th langths alread in second and Lord Rodgisti (1th worse of it) 2th langths back in fifth Lord Podgisti: Started two-units but jumped healthly behind Caulier at Ayr last month. Previously beaten by Crystal Gift on their seasonal debuts at the same track Cotissown Boy: Seemed to need more of a test after struggling for pace when 44 langths 7th to Easter Ross in a Concaster (2m 44, good to soft) handicap last month. Crystal Gift: Front-runner closely matched with Lord Podgeld and Lord Richfield on his two runs at Ayr, especially good efforts as they followed a long lay-fine flower the Bocic Flas struggling for form, including when 49 lengths behind Easter Ross at Doncaster last time, in with squeak on bask of three hundle wirs last term Double Agent: Returns to hunding after most of trunes tunde wirs last term Double Agent: Returns to hunding after most of trunes are larged of the form including when 51 lengths behind Easter Double Agent: Returns to hunding after most of trunes tunde wirs last term Double Agent: Returns to hunding after most of trunes tunde wirs last term. VERDICT: It is hard to separate Crystal Gift and Lord Podgski on their two runs at Ayr, with the latter just getting the vote at the weights and in less heavy ground.

R	acent sec	he jumped poorly lest time. Mary Revoley is the top trainer at this track in ssons and ROBBO, who finally won at Ayr after a series of placed efforts, look harshly treated to be raised only 41bs for that effort.
3	.50	EIDER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £38,000 C4 added 4m 1f Penalty Value £21,865
1		SANTA CONCERTO (21) (John Cort) L Lungo 10 11 10
2	d	OTTOWA (14) (Part K Barber) P Nichols 9 11 10
3	-13-20	THE LAST FLING (21) (C) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) Mrs S Smith 9 ti 3S Durack brown, white hoop and eleaves, quartered cap
4		YOUNG KENNY (37) (D) W G Read) P Beaution 6 to 2
5	032017	HOLLYBANK BUCK (23) (Ars S Werner) A J Martin (tr) 9 10 11
6	ŲF11-4	PARAMANDY (23) (G E Heuro) J Malins 9 10 11
7	1-3UF4	FLAKED CATS (30) IP Swatterd, C Thelictivenus, S Frost P Micholis, 10 10 8 L Wywr royal bibe and write (quartered), and seek and cap, blue sleeves
8	11-213	NAUGHTY FITURE (26) IA K Colins) J.J O'Nell 10 10 7
9	IFFIRE	FLINSY TRUTH (42) (At H Westor) Is Westor 12 10 2

10 1U-2F FSELS LINE GOLD (20) (independent Natructachung) N Richards 11 100 — A Dobbin amend green, black cross of busines, while cleanes, black and emended green incoped cap 2025 BALLYLINE (18) (The 49 Partnership) W Kerny 6 10 0 — B Powell pink, emended green cap, park also pink, emended green caps, park also PRUL OF OATS (8) (Abartin Bractions) P Hobbs 13 10 0 — R Wickger (5) fight blue and mercon cleanons, mercon scheets, and districted on cap light blue and mercon cleanons, mercon scheets, and districted on cap Disck, white cross of lombine 10 0 — B Hoarding Disck, white cross of lombine 1 400 — C McConmatch (3) above, park scheenes, black cap, park star 1 50 — D Parker white, red mailless cross, black cap park star 100 — 10 Parker white, red mailless cross, black cap

white, red mallase cross, black cup = 15 decirred
Altrimum weight: 10st. True /sundicap weights: Bullyline, Full Of Cats, Peter 9st 125b. Tough Fest 9st 10bb.

Altr Datey 9st 7bb.

BETTING: 9-2 Young Kenny, 6-1 Heliyoalt Buck, Peter, Senta Concerto, 7-1 Permhendy, 8-1 Fell Of Cats, 10-1 Resignity Future, 14-1 Falted Oats, 16-1 Feets Like Gold, Tough Test, 20-1 The Last Filing. - 15 declared 33-1 Ottowa, 50-1 others 1998: Domaine De Pron 7 to C R Supple 9-2 (Mrs L Taylor) 11 mm

FORM GUIDE

Santa Concerto: Impressive front-rurning chases who has won four (one poor run) out of six races (furthest over 3m 15 but should stay), most recently beating River Unshon by 8 lengths in an Ayr (2m 44, heavy) handlosp.

Ottome: New pockey and binkers fitted in ettempt to revive enthusiasm of former high class stayes, taked off in the National time at Uttoacter (3m 44, heavy) last month. The Lest Filling: Looked good on reeppearance run at Wetherby (boot houng Kenny) but sipshod upming let him down since, pulled up in Great Vershare latest Young Kenny: Fine young chases, no degrace in firishing 8 lengths second to very useful Step On Eyre in Wetherby (3m 11, heavy) handloap last month, with Santa Concerto back in fourth. Won over this linp in December. Hollybank Bueld: Insh trained-rurner won a Grade 2 in heavy ground at Leopard Stown last month but was disappointing when pulsed-up on the same track talest Parshandy. Improving chases who at Fontwell and Wincarton last Season. Should come on for seasonal debut 4th to Double Thriller at Wincarton (3m1), exit funed Parked Osta: Disappointing last time betnic Zeggy Lene at Teuriton, previously had writing chance when falling in the Anthony Mildney and may be worth another by Naughty Futbris: Having good season, winting over 21 in at Kelso in Decembor and 10 length filtric to Island Cheff in a Wetherby (3m1), soft handloap. Filinsy Truth: Very useful staying chase in 1996/97 but best watched as has shown nothing in two runs this season, including when unseating at Warmack, last time Peters Like Gold: Rain rare poor race to be talled-off behind Island Chile at Weiherby, better chance on 15 lengths fifth in a Musselburgh (2m4), good) handloap at tweiherby, better chance on 15 lengths 2nd to Santa Concerte (220) worse off) at Ayr Ballytine Winner of a 4-rurner race in October but ance below form. Looked reluctant when 25 lengths fifth in a Musselburgh (2m4), good) handloap at Newcaste (3m6) handloap on reappearance. Sure to stay and looks as good as ever Peter: Game han

YENDICT: Young Kenny, very wall regarded by connections is sure to stay, and Parahandy, while not proven over the trip, has looked as if he should be suited by extreme distances and is on the upgrade. PLANED 1ATS is a chancy selection as he has tailed to complete on his two of his last three runs, but he was running well on both occessors and may be worth relang at generous odds today.

4.20 BOB GORMAN SIGNS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £5,498

1908: Forestal 6 to 9 A Dobban evens fev (J H Johnson) 5 ran FORM VERDICT Aghewraddg Gold looks e nebural jumper of fences and will not be out of place in the Arkle field. However he only beet BARNBURGH BOY's length over this course and distance in November and the tunner-up that day has really got his act together since.

4.50 FAIRYHOUSE RACECOURSE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (F) \$2,500 added 3m \$2,155

FORM VERDICT

JOWOODY looks a worthy torounte and a good bet to make it three wins from four runs since jorging Many Revelley. She is creoping up the weights, but she begt a pair of bost-time-out-winners with authority at Ayr and taces a undestinguished bush. Chash Boxt, Who Dayes Wins and lest year's winner Vilprano look the most their each-way condidities.

WARWICK

HYPERION 2.05 Young Spartacus 4.10 Tresor De Mai 2.35 Ralpbow Starr 4.40 With Impunity

arried under-16s free); Course E5. CAR PARK: £5 in mem

5.10 Bale Des Singes 3.05 Unsinkable Boxer 3.40 Windross GOING: Chase course - Good to Soft; Hurdles - Good to Soft, Soft in places.

Left-hand course, Run-in of 240 yards.

Course is W of city on B4095, Buses from stations at Warwick (tm) and Learnington Spa (2m) ADMISSION: Cub Ets; Tattersals ES (card-carrying students half-price,

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS ■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 25-105 (235%), *N Nicholson 34-108 (22.2%), Mrs J Pilman 15-72 (20.5%), N Twiston-Davies 11-81 (13.5%), P Nicholis 9-30 (30%), ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 22-56 (39.3%), R Johnson 20-81 (24.7%), N Williamson 18-81 (22.2%), A Maguire 14-62 (22.6%), W Marston 14-87 (15.1%), ■ FAVOURITES: 156-409 (37.5%). BLINKEREO FIRST TIME: None

2.05 MICHAEL PAGE INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m Penalty Value £4,828

FORM VERDICT

STREN SONG has plenty going for him here and may be the answer to an otherwise tight looking handicap. Siren Song is very lainly treated, particularly so if his good amazour rid-ers claim is taken into account, and he ran well enough in much bette? company only last

2.35 MICHAEL PAGE SALES AND MARKETING HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £2,637

— 12 declared —
Minkmann weight: 10st, True handisap weights: Amisonamenones Six 13b. Formadable Paymer 9st 9b, houng Radical 9st 8b. How To Rum 8st 10b. Lime Street Bloves 7st 12b.
BETTING: 4-1 Lidtle Garmer, 5-1 Skram, 13-2 Reichow Stat. Handy Lees. 8-1 Phair Lees Handle, Andillinam, amilliontementies. Formatiolise Partner, Young Radical, 10-1 others
1996. Run For Darie 8 11 1 Michael Brennan (3) 9-2 (G Hubberd) 9 ran. FORM VERDICT

This looks like quite a competitive after with several who can be given serious considera-tion. The selection is PHAR LESS HASSEL, who will be much better suited by this track, and can make a bold afterpit to make all from Palinhow Star and Little Gammer.

3.05 MICHAEL PAGE LEGAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C4 B) £12,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £8,935

brown, emerald preen allowers, hooped cap ~ 4 declared ~ BETTING: 8-13 Unsinkable Boxer, 13-8 Spendid, 6-1 Edmond, 66-1 Rambling Sun 1986, Gakason Jane 8 11 5 R Johnson 5-1 (P Nedots) 3 ran

FORM GUIDE Editionid: Dour stayer and winner at Exeter and Youcester. Stiff task here after a poor jumping round behind Kodou Norantaler at Wetherby Spendid: Very tough hurder and just as hardy over fonces. Loves Cheltenham and Spendice very usugn nurser and passes in addy until a naise service of the River Unatilizable Boxers Landed long distance hundle double as Chellenham and Aintree last term and a faller two out when challenging Fluidey Wood at Chellenham (2m5f) on second chasing attempt. Very much wards this trip to altine Rambling Sam: Fence behind when fell last time. No chance

VERDICT: UNSINKABLE BOXER has his right trip for the first time over fences and should make amends for his lapse at Chellenham. Spendid always gives of his best and that hardy sort will be snapping away at the favourite throughout. But it has to be remembered that Unsinkable Boxer toyed with him when a hundes winner at the 3.40 QUESTOR INTERNATIONAL NOVICE TRIAL HURDLE (B) £10,000 added 2m 41 110yds Penalty Valma £7,386

- 5 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Rio's Klog, 11-4 Klog's Road, 7-2 Behrajan, 4-1 Windross, 9-2 Irish Benker 1996. Semuel Wilderspn 5 11 12 R Johnson 11-2 (D Nicholson) 5 ran

fiance Novice Hurtie and in which all have sound clasms here; at least a true-run race looks Skely today: BEHRAJAN is a tentahue choice, having booked as if a longer trip would out him last time at Chettenhern, with King's Road the best alternative. 4.10 MICHAEL PAGE INTERNATIONAL KINGMAKER NOVICE CHASE (Grade 2) (A) £20,000 added 2m

FORM VERDICT A teacheuring but difficult to predict race in which all five are entered in Chattenham's 5.

BETTING: 8-13 Treaty De Mail, 5-4 Flagginip Ulberaline. 1998. Lake Kariba 7 tl 5 R Johnson ≠1 (P Notrots) 7 rar **FORM GUIDE** Flagship Uberaties: Finds 2m ideal (2nd to Potentate over further) and took advantage of 10b concession to beat Eagles Rest 16 lengths at Kempton. Theory De Matk Wanner over the flagship and the Concession of t

Treeor De Mai: Winner over hurdles and fences in French Provinces i when busting Montroe 25 lengths at Lingfield. Can win in better of VERDICT: TRESOR DE MAI is another decent recruit picked up by Martin Pipe from France and the mariner of his Lingfield victory from Montroe suggests he's capable of beating Viking Ragship's half-brother Flagship Uberelles, who had things relatively easy at Kempton when getting so much weight from Eagles Rest.

4.40 MICHAEL PAGE FINANCE HANDICAP CHASE C4 (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £8,115 1-11PP TAMARIMDO (FR) (37) (D) (BF) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 9 11 11 A P McCoy mention, grey place and armibits, quantered cap

mindon, grey place and red, white star, black and red striped electors, white cap, black star -5 declared -BETTING: 13-6 The Outback Way, 9-4 Madison County, 3-1 Temarkydo, 9-2 With Impunity, 20-1 Back

998 Oublin Piver 12 12 0 B Powell 11-4 (T Porster) 4 ran FORM GUIDE Tamerindo: Only 3lb higher compared to the Cheltenham win over further from Macgeorge. Heart looked the same horse since but returns from five-week rest Medison.

Medison County I has not recommended to the same but returns from five-week rest Medison.

in County: Likes soft ground and lept up gallop over 3m to beat Share Options at Utionater last time. Capable sort over this shorter trip With Impunity: Goes well fresh and creditable 3rd to Cyfor Malia at Aintree (2m8f) in April Last win gained from Jibber The Kibber over C&D and 3th higher here The Outback Way: In good heart and leading chance oil 6th higher mark after the Doncaster win from Forestal and Nosam. Good previous 3rd to Capenwray Back Bar: 11to out of handicap proper and wants entreme distances VERDICT: THE OUTBACK WAY atways booked the winner at Doncaster after his improved showing against Caperawray at Chellenham. He must again take some beat-ing off 10st and getting an much weight from the disappointing Temperated, Medison County is in a better race compared to the latest win, but With Impunity has won on

the course and is decent when fresh. 5.10 SRS STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 added 2m Penaity Value £1,683

BETTING: 9-4 Perk Alert, 6-2 Toggl Denoer, 9-2 Mister Graham, 16-1 Carned Interest. Conspirito Some Operator, 14-1 Str Robbo, Gentleman Jack, 29-1 others 1998: Lidelia 9 11 4 7 Johnson 9-2 (T George) 17 ran

FORM VERDICT

A typically difficult bumper for purities, with several lightly-raced horses to essess. With Perk Alert vulnerable under his panalty, fellow winner TOGGI DANCER may be able to capitalise - a good damer negates most of his extra weight.

LINGFIELD

HYPERION 2.00 Harik 2.30 Compton Akka 3.00 Alamein 3.35 Kayo Gee 4.05 Trawling 4.35 Bartholomew

GOING: Standard, STALLS: St. Im outside, remainder inside.
ORAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to 1m, especially for 6t.
Equitrack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
Course is SE of form on B2028. Englied station (served by London Victorial adoption course ADMISSION: One enclosure CTI
CAR PARK: Club 23, remainder free.
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 93-673 (138%), R Hennon 43-377 (37%), M Johnston 48-230 (171%) G Kelleway 44-322 (137%), LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 77-612 (126%), J Weaver 88-309 1 S Sanders 65-563 (115%) R Cochrane 57-352 (16.2%) FAVOURITES: 735-238 (336%)
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doby Day Dream (436).

2.00 OSPREY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,250

- 6 decigned -BETTING: 15-8 For Cry, 11-4 Hards, 9-2 Shorfff, Pipe Music, 6-1 Star Rege. FORM VERDICT

FAR CRY could dely his use in the weights if he handles the surface as well as he does Foresand. Last year's witner Sheriff has the beating of Harris on running here last month but the latter im-proved significantly when ridden very prominently last time and a would be no great surprise if he came out the better today.

SETTING: 4-7 Compton Akia, 3-1 Critical Air, 4-1 Pericles, 15-1 Village FORM VERDICT COMPTON AKKA, a progressive 3yd and a CSD warrier, is well in at the weights and has obvious cleans. Perfoles, much better than its level at his best, showed signs of a revivel when narrowing beater by subsequent easy writer Alemein or a cleaner have last time and may be the one to best, although Critical Air is ex-

packed to improve on a disappointing eithor earlier in the week.

2.30 HARRIER CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 7f FORM VERDICT Lady Carolina is another well up to this level but not sure to stay, so the vote goes to RARBASON, who is at he best at this trip and

3.35 HARRY RAMSDENS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 3YO 5f

- 4 declared - Minimum weight, 7s; 10b; True transferp weight, Light Brecce 7s; 1lb. BETTING: 2-1 Kaye Gee, 9-4 Trojan Girt, 3-1 Light Brecce, 7-2 Prince Prospect FORM VERDICT KAYO GEE was most impressive when warring over this course and detance last time and looks well worth following over the minmum trip despite the steep rise in the weights.

3.00 BUZZARD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) 53,500 added 1m 4.05 PLAY GOLF AT LINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,500 added 1m 1 00 NemERIAL ENVIVO (26) W Agir 4 9 2 ... Mentin Devyer 3 00 LAVACA RIVER (256) P Hosting 48 12 ... J Outen 5 3 2003 MARIANA (19) T Comman 4 9.7 ... 7 Spratu, 4 V 6 LADV RENE (2) T J Neuption 3 8 2 ... P. Doc (3) 2 22 TRANSANS (143) (8F) B +85 3 6 2 ... K Shed (5) 1 -5 declared - BETTRING: 1-4 Transling, 8-1 Imperial Enviry, Lavaca River, 12-1 Mariana. 16-1 Ladv htmps -6 Gentare --6 Gentare -BETTING: svens Alametr. 4-1 Barbason, 13-2 Castle Ashby Jock, Soak-ing. 7-1 Lady Carolina, 16-1 Stoppes Brow FORM VERDICT TRAWLING is head and shoulders above her rivals on form and should win if she handles the surface. If she does not, perhaps the one to profit will be Lady Irene 4.35 SPARROWHAWK HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,500 added 3YD 6f SETTING: 9-4 Bartholomeut, 109-30 Trice's Part, 7-2 Entwelle, 9-2 Posty Mills 8-1 Doily Day Oresto, 9-1 Glestonbury FORM VERDICT Swedish Gunners respect BARTHOLOMEW has plenty of speed and the drop back in trip after a garner arm over 71 here on Thursday should be no hindrance to him.

Lawrie storms five clear in wind

PAUL LAWRIE is on course to win the first six-figure cheque of his career following another BY MARK GARROD scintillating performance at the Qatar Masters. Two clear after a second-round 65, the 30year-old from Aberdeen defied strong winds to add a joint best-of-the-day 67 and go into today's final round with a fivestroke advantage.

Lawrie, who missed the halfway cut hy eight shots in last week's Dubai Desert Classic. stands on an 16-under-par total of 200. France's Jean van de Velde is his nearest challenger in the race for the £102,283 first prize, with two more Scots Stephen and Raymond Russell - sharing third with Midlander John Bickerton a stroke further back.

Lawrie's previous higgest pay-day was the 1996 Volvo
PGA championship at Wentworth, where he collected neara big lead. It was in the Euroly £87.000 for finishing tied second with Nick Faldo, two behind Costantino Rocca, His one tour victory was at the Catalan Open the same year an event reduced to 36 holes by fierce

ing been hrought up on Scot-

land's north-east coast he had no fears about heing blown about. Three birdies in the opening four holes - the first after he almost holed his pitch - set the tone, and two more had come before he dropped his first shot of the week on the 470yard 15th. A drive into rough there was just a temporary blip - back he came, holing B 20-foot putt on the next. Lawrie said: "I felt calm, in control and - Bernard Gallacher's nephew comfortable. I knew I was

swinging well." While South African Ernie Els blew a six-shot last-day lead in Perth only last month Lawrie is comforted by the pean Under-25 championship in France in 1992 and he turned a six-stroke advantage into B win by eight.

The following year Lawrie finished sixth in the Open at Sandwich, holing a three-iron Conditions were nowhere for an eagle two at the penulnear as bad yesterday, and hav- timate hole. "I really struggled

The swing of confidence as Scotland's Paul Lawrie leaves his rivals trailing in the Qatar Masters in Doha yesterday after that," he recalled "Everyunion team. "I used to travel to his home and chat for three to body expected me to keep it

going - and so did L It was four hours at a time. He also tough to live up to it. I thought gave me tapes, which were so that if I could be sixth in the relaxing it was unbelievable. They sent me to sleep." Van de Velde, another former

larly for tournaments and when I didn't it was hard to European Under-25 champion who has won only once on the Lawrie was helped by ses-Tour in 10 years, moved into second place by grabhing birdies at two of the last four sions with the sports psychologist Dr Richard Cox, an adviser to the Scotland rugby

Cannes Open, matched that, while the 24-year-old Gallacher, making his tour comeback after suffering back problems and losing his card two years ago, returned a 69 and Bickerton a 71. Ian Woosnam is eight behind following a 70, and Ryder Cup captain Mark

James' 72 left him 10 adrift. England's David Howell, on the strength of his victory in last switched this season to quoting

Russell, winner of the 1996 week's Dubai Desert Classic, leads the PGA European Tour money list after five events. Howell has winnings of 204,172 euros (£139,843) followed by Els (169,045/£115,784) and Lee Westwood of England (132,216/ £90,558).

Westwood was the runner-up last season to Colin Montgomerie in season's earnings. The PGA European Tour

its winnings in the new Euro-

In-form Dott proves a point

lenmi ftouc

GRAEME DOTT reached the first semi-final of his career yesterday, recovering from a 4-2 deficit to defeat Paul Hunter in the Scottish Open in Aberdeen.

Just as he had done against the former world champion, John Parrott, in the previous round, Dott triumphed 5-4, much to his own surprise.

"At no stage did I ever think I was going to win," said the 21-year-old Glaswegian, who was one of four Scotsmen - the others heing John Higgins, Alan McManus and Stephen Hendry - competing on quarter-final day at the Exhibition and Conference Centre.

"But when I got back to 4-4 I thought I might have a good chance. I know it was a scrappy game, hut as long as you win it doesn't matter how unattractive the match is.

"When I was playing like that in the past I would get annoyed and ended up losing. Now, I'm out there to win any way I can, and it doesn't matter if a frame takes an hour as long as you win it."

Dott's new mental toughness has resulted from a lengthy meeting with Terry Griffiths, the former world champion.

The determined Dott revealed that after heating Parrott he had spent four hours at Griffiths's Llanelli bome after the Weisb Open discussing ways to "put my head straight".

Until his meeting with the respected Welshman the world No 30, who turned professional in 1994, had contemplated giving up the game for good. Now, he says, he is glad he listened to the voice of experience. Dott is guaranteed £16,000, which is easily the biggest cheque of his career thus far.

It was not the best of matches against the 20-yearold Hunter, who had himself knocked out the defending champion, Ronnie O'Sullivan, in the last 32. Hunter's best break was just 49, while Dott saved his best until last with a run of 60 to take control of

However, the match was won and lost in the penultinate frame. Hunterwas in the driving seat, with Dott needing snookers until he unluckily potted the pink trying to play

safe off the final blue. Dott then fluked the hlue off two cushions and went on to take pink and black to keep the game alive. Hunter led 32-0 in the decider but then ran out of position. Dott made 60 and eventually forced the concession when he knocked in the

hrown ball. "I bad my chances to win 5-3 hut couldn't take them," said Hunter, who had also been 3-1 up at the interval." Dott added: "When you get to the semi-final your aim is to go on to win the tournament -

not to settle for reaching this far in the event."

Maier keen to

beat the snow

THE MEN'S World Cup super-G originally scheduled to take place tomorrow in Garmisch-Partenkirchen has been moved forward to today because of

changing weather conditions. The men's downhill, which is due to be run today, is in doubt because of recent heavy snow so far that has been impossible.

Hermann Maier, returning to the mountain where his skiing ago, can expect another tough challenge from Norway's Lasse piste. It was in the Bavarian resort that former bricklayer Maier burst onto the scene, landing his first World Cup win in a super-G in 1997. He won again last year and is capable

of making it three in a row. Maier would also be hard to beat in the downhill if he could match the reckless run which earned him the title at the World Championships earlier adrift.

this month in Vail. The muscular Austrian's main rival in the Colorado Rockies turned out to be Kjus, who won silver in the downhill and shared the gold with Maier in the super-G.

The two must now fight on staged because it requires no and their battle looks set to go training run; the downhill can- to the wire at the finals next not be held without training and month in Sierra Nevada, Spain. "It is easier to shine at World

championships than to win the World Cup," said Maier, eager adventure started two years to defend the crown he won last season. "The World Cup is special because the winner is the Kjus on the awesome Kandahar man who has been the best skiier all winter." With two rounds remaining

before the finals - next week in Ofterschwang, Germany, and next month in Kvittjell, Norway - Kjus tops the overall World Cup standings with 1,089 points. Norway's Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, the 1994 champion, is in second place, 35 points behind with Maier in third, a further point

Chaos in ero lendulkar is

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A of which

Dutch test awaits champion Couch

cope with mentally."

Open I should compete regu-

THE CAUSE of women's boxing should receive a significant boost tonight when Jane Couch defends her Womens Internahonal Boxing Federation wel-Dutch challenger, Marischa Siauw, at the Thornaby Leisure Centre, Middlesbrough.

ing remains something of a London last November. novelty here. Couch is the coun-

Pernell Whitaker, who has not

hoping to set up a showdown

meets a challenger who missed

BY NICK HALLING

ter-weight title against the licence. Then in the first officially sanctioned female match in the UK, she disposed of the bapless German teenager Si-Widely accepted elsewhere mone Lukic in just over three around the world, female box- minutes at Streatham, south

That affair was little short of farcical: the German looked although she had to take the like an aerobics instructor and This is a chance for the British since turning professional five degree of credibility that has British Boxing Board of Control boxed like one, too. In con-public to see what women's years ago and has gained the been lacking thus far.

"There will be no excuses in

don't look back at 1998. This is

Whitaker, but the skills are still

Trinidad, 26, has won all 33

International Boxing Federa- ceived B suspended sentence

fought in 16 months, in New this fight." Whitaker said. "I

with the World Boxing Council there. I know I'm going out, But

out on the whole of 1998 after of his professional bouts and

champion. Oscar de la Hoya, I'm going to go out in style."

The unbeaten Puerto Rican, 1999. I'm a more mature Pernell

tion welterweight title against for reckless driving.

trast, the Dutch woman apboxing is all about." Couch, respect of her male sparring pears genuinely formidable. originally from Fleetwood, but partners at the gym run by her Now based in Florida, she has fought credible American opponents in Lisa Ested and Kathy Collins, both current world champions.

"I was at the Streatham show, and all I will say is that it is going to be very different this time," said the promoter, Jonathan Feld. "This is a serious fight and, from what I have Seen, Jane will be up

Congo fighter Mahenge Zulu in

four rounds last April. Even

with weight troubles, Trinidad

a fight in the quickest way," Trinidad said. "If I hit him with

the first punch, then I will try

to end the fight. He's still a good

boxer, but the drugs and alco-

SPORTING DIGEST

"Every fighter wants to end

remains confident, though.

FELIX TRINIDAD ends a tation in a drug treatment cen- distance. But he has not fought little bit slower, but he's still

10-month lay-off by risking his tre - a year in which he also re- since stopping the Republic of strong. He has experience."

undergoing cocaine rehabili- stopped 29 opponents inside the Whitaker still has pride. He's a to go for the gold again."

now based in Bristol, won ber title from the Frenchwoman Sandra Geiger in May 1996, successfully defending It against two Americans, Andrea Deshong and Leah Mellinger, a year later. Her only loss came against another American, Dora "Swamp Monster" Webber, in a non-title affair.

The 31-year-old Lancastrian

Whitaker, 35, has won six

weight classes and carries a

41-1-2 record and 17 knock-outs

into a fight where be claims to

feel in the same prime form that

Los Angeles 15 years ago.

The British boxing fraternity remains lukewarm to female boxers but, should tonight's affair fulfil its potential it will help

coach, Tex Woodward. "She's

trained very well," he said.

"But this is a dangerous oppo-

nent. I am expecting her to win

but she will have to be at the top

of her game or there could be

Trinidad faces Olympian task on comeback Promoter Don King hopes to arouse De la Hoya's ire to face the Trinidad-Whitaker winner world titles in four different rather than his scheduled foe, fellow-American Oba Carr, or a

possible rematch with Ike

Quartey after De la Hoya's split-

decision win over the Ghanaian

brought him Olympic gold in in Las Vegas a week ago. "We're talking about Oscar de la Hoya's talent, his guts, his "If I had any rust, it was taken machismo," King said. "He care of in training," Whitaker hol have taken their toll, hut said "Right now I feet like I want cannot live with himself if he

does not meet this challenge."

RACING RESULTS SANDOWN

Going: Chase course: Good (Good to Soft in places) Hundle course: Good to Soft (Good in places) 1.AS: (2m 110/ds novice surdie)
1.AS: (2m 110/ds novice surdie)
1.BACOMANAL M A Picageraid 13-8 fav
2.Lordbernielbostfact — P Hide 11-1
3. Nathwe Wing — 7 J Brupply 7-4
Also rarts 6-1 High Game (Seb), 16-1 The
Eerim Man, 20-1 More Tilane, Smirrit (Asta),
25-1 Game Ballistic, 33-1 Big Brun. Coble
Lane. Oxick Succession, 50-1 Keynore
(64b), Pidgeon Post.
18 rain, 11, 7-7, 9, 7-1, (Winner chestmat
getkling by Bio Both out of Austro, trained
by N Hersterson at Lambourn for Lady Lloyd
Webbert Bothe 12, 30, 51, 30, 61, 80, 61, 30
DP: E9-70, CSF: 518.41, NR, Hoh Invader.
2-20, 12m 81, 110-pre novice chest.

of The Castle.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £14,119.00 car-ried forward to Newcastle today).

Placepot: £137.20. Quadpot: £93,00.

Place 6: £212.67. Place 5: £169,45.

FAKENHAM Going: Good to Soft (Soft patch after water jump)

1.30: 1. REWER PROOFTIER (Derek Byrne)
13-2 | r fax, 2. Lacy Brity 8-1: 3. Galloping
Gens 13-2 | r fax, 4. Star Manager (0-1
16 ran. ¹/₂, 8. (M Usher, East Garston). Tobe:
£8.10: £2.40, £1.80, £1.70, £3.00, Dr.
£70.00. CSF. £48.12. Tricast: £326.18. E70.00. CSP: £48.12. Incase £526.18. 2.00: 1. MONICASTMAN (E Husband) 3-1 is fav: 2. Miadam Muck 3-1 it fav: 3. High Mood 9-1. 9 ram. 11, 14. 16 McCourt, Win-tage!. Total £3.10: £1.50, £1.30, £1.90. OP: £4.00. CSP: £11.79. Incase £64.48. 2.30: 1. COUNT CAMPTONI (O Leahy) 7-4 fav: 2. Easton Gale 9-4; 3. Kallante 7-1. 9 ran. //, dist. IMrs J Pitman, Upper Lam-bourn). Tobes £3.00; £1.10. £1.10. £2.70. DF: £3.70. CSF: £5.69.

DF: £3.70. CSF: £5.69.
3.00: 1. HOUSE CAPTAIN (P Niven)
11-8 Fay, Z. Krock Laader 7-2: 3. Soc of
Arsklan 4-1. 6 ran. 15. 27: (F FixGerald,
Malron), Tobe: £2.00: £1.80. £1.40. CP;
£4.00. CSF: £6.49.
3.35: 1. MEMSAHIB OF STEEM (D Gallagher) 2-1 Fax. 2. Westley'n Lad 7-1: 3.
Langfynyn 7-2. 7 ran. 1, 15. 18. Gollings.
Louth), *Societ E2.80: £2.10. £2.60. CP;
£13.70. CSP: £16.10. 4.10: 1. PRO BONO (Mr N Fehity) 3-1; 2. Liniachen 7-1; 3. Cookwam Lady 10-1. 8 ran. 7-4 fav Warren Boy (4th. 1/s. 22. IW Casdwell, Abingdon). Roce: 63.30; 61.20, 62.20, 62.60, DF; 612.40, CSF; 623.10.

4.40: 1. WATER STRATFORD (Mr C R Weaver) 100-30: 2. Sceni Rose 7-1: 3. Wassense 15-8 fav. 10 ram. 3/r, V. (P Webber, Sanbury). Tobar: £4 30: £1,60. £1,70, £1,20. DF: £30,00. CSF £25,77 SOUTHWELL

Coing Standard
1.40: 1. COLERUPS (#WBon) 8-1; 2. TBlyboy 11-1; 3. He's Got Wage 9-4 (av 10
ran. 21-2; 0. Sheehan) Tober £9.90; £2.60.
£2.00. £1.50 DP; £50.00, CSP; £81 24 Trlcast; £237.58. Cast: £237-58.
2.10: 1. BUSTLING RIO (P Goods) 11-4
Lav. 2. Milaty 5-1: 3. Logs Spirit 33-1: 13
ran. 7, 7, (P Hastam), Rose: £3 60, £1 60,
£2.40, £21 30, DF, £15.30, CSF: £12 40,
Tricast: £330,90 Incast: £330,90 2.40:1. BOLD ARISTOCRAT (P.M. Quint) 6-1; 2. Malteamla 13-2; 3. Palacegate Touch 3-1 13 ran. 5-2 fav Sue Me Játhl. Hd. 1. (R. Hollmahead), Tobes £6.80; £3.50. £2.50. £1 10. DF £25.60 CSF £41.41 NR: Samwär

3.15; 1. AMBITIOUS (WRyar), 5-2; 2. General Klaire evens (ar. 3. Kiwer Ensign 25-1. 7 rad. 2, 8 U Fanshawe) Totas £3.30; £1.50, £1.10, DF: £2.20, CSF; £5.00 E1.50. E1 10. DF- E2.20. CSF. E5.00
3.45: 1. WINDSHIFT (R Winston) 9-4 fav:
2. Air of Esthem 4-1: 3. Wiesters Command 7-2 8 ran. 3, 7, 10 Shaw): These E2.70: E1 40. E2.00. DF: E4.70. CSF. E10.27.
4.20: 1. IRISH CREAM (I P Spencer) 15-8 fav: 2. Carrie Pooter 9-4; 3. Just For You Jame 11-4 8 ran. 3, Fr. (P Evans). These E3.50: E1.70. E1 80. E1.00 DF: E4.70. CSF. E5.78.



GREAT BRITAIN TEAM (for shemation macch, demon 2a, Feb) Mart 60m; K. Milliams (10m:11) 200m; C. Malcolm (10m:11) 200m; C. Malcolm (10m:11) 400m; D. Ladejo (Belginne) 1500m; E. Mag (Sire), 60m; hardies: M. Clements, Philappy Pole Vaste; Thomas (10m:10m) 10m; E. Malcolm, Pole Vaste; Thomas (10m:10m) 10m; E. Malcolm, Pole Vaste; Thomas (10m:10m) 10m; E. Malcolm, A. Politich (10m) 10m; Shor Put: M. Proctor (Neuhant of Fig. 15m; E. Francis (Neuhant of Fig. 15m; E. Senay (Levis City) Mornan; 60m; C. Bloomfield (Moralland dieses) (200m; D. Day (Moralland) 100m; E. Davies, Anderson (Statistalus) E. Davies, Anderson (Statistalus) (Neuhant (10m; D. Malgaren (10m; D. Malgaren (10m; D. Malgaren (10m; D. Day Lager)) (Moralland) (

BASKETBALL THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT: United Trophy: Semi-final, second leg: Leforster 93 Derby 90 (Derby von 175-168 on segmente) Segregate:
NBR Indone 99 Petudelpha 95 Washington
95 Scranto 55 Huaston 93 New Iersey 92
107), Cleyetans 98 New York 76, Utah 97
Denuer 85

TODAY'S NUMBER

\$2m The amount (£1,25m)

- his salary for last vear - that Serger Fedoror of ice hockey's Detroit Red Wings is denuating to set up a charitable child welfure foundation. He will also donate \$91 for every goal his side scores this season.

MEN'S EUROLEAGUE Final standing | 180 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 160

CRICKET CRICKET

ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP
(Calcatta; Fourth day).
Folistan won toss

PAMESTAN — Flore formings 185 | Moon Khan
70. | Smaath 5-46|
INDIA — Flore formings 223 (S Ramesh 79;
Shaath Ahmar 4-71)
PAMESTAN — Sacood Innings 316 (Saced
Anciat 183no, Yousul Youhard 56.) Smaath
8-85)

Resear I dano, volusiar routers 30, 7 stream
B-851
Interrupt 4 for 01
5 Ramesh Row b Snelson
40
V S Laterson c Youthara b Saelson
57
R Dravid c Moon b Shearb 13
5 R Fendultur run out 20
M Annaruddin c Youhana b Saelson
50
Gampuly not out 23
IN R Monga law b Shearb 1
A Kumble not out 17
Bezzas (194 ab 15nb) 29
Tocal (104 S. 73 overs) 214
Pailt 1-108, 2-134, 3-145, 4-149, 5-183, 6-190 6-190
To batt H Singh, J Srinath, B K V Prasad
Bowillag: Shoaib Akhtar 17-4-39-2, Wasim
Alexan 21-3-60-0: Azhar Mahmood 6-0-23-0;
Saqlan Mushtaq 25-5-69-3; Shahid Alridu
4-1-10-0.

Bristol Rovers have signed the defender Robbie Pethrick from Portsmouth for a nominal fee. Rovers manager, lan Holloway, is also negotiating with two other Pompey players, the former Arsenal midfielder David Hilber and winger Martin Philips.

CARLSBERG CUP Final Pleag Rong! Monot 3 (Marages 34, Abunds 43, Hernander pen 88! Sypro D Taird-Pleag Rong! Monot 33 (Marages 34, Abunds 45, Hernander pen 88! Sypro D Taird-Pleag play-off: Bulgura 3 (Stockhov 5, know 23, 52) from Rong! Monot 10 (Marague 34, Abunds 45, Hernander pen 88! Sypro D Taird-Pleag play-off: Bulgura 3 (Stockhov 5, know 23, 52) from Roll Rouge Roll Pensponed (waterlegged plath): Leigh RMU 18 Rutcom Final Marague (Marague 18) from 6 Abril 18 Med 10 Marague 18 from 18 Marague 18 from 18 Marague 18 from 18 Marague 18 from 18 Med 18 Marague 18 from 18 Med 18 Marague 18 from 18 Med 18 Med

GOLF GOLF

NISSAN OPEN (Los Angeles) Leading

Brat-round somes (US undess stated):
66 O Duval, B Estes: 67 (Roberts, N Price
(Zim), K Tiglett, K Sutherland, A Bratton:
68 I Kelly, R Fehr, F Couples, P Micheton,
M Calcanettria, P Starkovsku, B Tisay, N Lancaster, B Geberger, B Cungley, E Es (SA),
B Andrade, S Jones, M Brooks, C Dernols
Selected: 68 T Viscols: 70 I M Cazabai (Sp),
72 G Hjertstedt (Swe), V Singh (Fill), F Nobiol IN2)
LPGA HAMARIAN OPEN (Kapolel) Leading Bras-round scores (US unless stated): 66 M Lunn (Aust. 67 M McGann, 68
C McCurdy, M Redman, V Odegard, W
Doolan, M Hjorth (Swe): 68 H Kobayashi

(Japan), N Ramsbottom, C Johnson, E Gib-son, M Eskill, M Edge, O Cor-Jones (Can), T Barrett, N Mon (Japan), P Hurst, M Gold-en, A Delusa, H Daly-Donoffno, Selected GBr 78 A Nicoldas, 71 H Dobson; 72 S Lowe, S Strudwick: 73 V Fergon, K Marshalt; 74 L Davies, L Hackney. 78 A Nicrolas, 71 M Dobson; 72 S Lowe, 5 Strudwick, 73 V Fergon, 8 Marshalt, 74 L Davies, 1 Hockney, CANON CHALLENGE (Sydney) Leading second-rowed scores (Ass unless states); 133 R Paraping 67 66, 137 5 Conran 70 67, A Crawford 69 68; 139 E Boust (NZ) 73 66; 140 G Oglevy 71 69, K Druce 70 70, M Cam 68 72, M Long (NZ) 70 70, 141 1 Moseley 71 70, 142 E Whiters 70 72, P McWhimey 72 70, A Paster 70 72, D Small (NZ) 72 70, T Proc 73 69; 143 C Spence 76 67, C Warren 75 68, I Legant (Can) 74 69. A Gilligun 72 71, P Senior 72 71, A Stolz 74 69

ICE HOCKEY

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS
SENONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Marchester
Storm 4 Brackneti Bees 3 (or): Newcaste
Riverlangs 1 London Knights 3.
WML Carolina 2 Washington 2 (OT) Octavia
2 Boston 0 Montreal 3 Philadelphia 1 Sc Loois
0 Flonds 0 (DT) Los Angeles 3 Edmention
2 EASTERN CONFERENCE

Allantic Olivinion
W L T GF GA Pts
W L T GF GA Pts
W L T GF GA Pts
PtsIndetplata ...29 13 13 175 117 71
New Jersey....31 18 7 168 141 68
Ptssbargh....30 16 7 171 142 67
NY Engers....21 27 7 150 157 49
NY Islanders...17 33 7 155 172 A1 Southeast Division
W L T GF GA Pts
Carolina25 22 10 149 146 60
Plorida20 21 15 135 146 55
Whishington ...22 28 5 138 146 49
Tempa Bay ...11 39 5 111 205 27

MORIO CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ramons, Act) Men's 30km Cross-councy fransistes I M Myrky (rin) Ihr 15min 26.2ec; 2.7 Alspand (Nor) 1:16:01.5, 8 B Dachile (Nor) 1:16:02.2: 4 F Valous (I) 1:16:37 v. GA Bergstreem (Swe) 1:16:55.3: 7 C Hollman (Aut) 1:17.09.3: 8 P Elotson (Swe) 1:17.58.2: 10 S Kranin (Rus) 1:18 13.4 RUGBY UNION UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL Plates 24, brelled 18. Walter Tries Groud. C Monagen, Popharm: Penalties 5 Junes 3. Ireland: Tries B Curringham, O'Dilscoft: Counsystees Murphy; Penalties Murphy 2. jut Completes Murphy Late RESULTS
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS
CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP
Second record: 8/1500/3 Northampton 50. WELSH RATIONAL LEAGUE Park District Cross Keys 33 Merthyr 24.

SNOOKER SCOTTISH DPEN (Aberdeen) Third round: A McMarus (Sco) bt C Small (Sco) S-0-1 Highers (Sco) bt D Handel (Eng) 5-1; 5 Hendry (Sco) bt B Morgan (Eng) 5-3; K Doherty (In) bt F O'Brien (H) S-3 Charase-flaak G Dott (Sco) bt P Hunter (Eng) 5-4. France's Mary Pierce, the world No 9, has withdrawn from Monday's Paris Open with shoulder and thumb

9, has withdrawn from Monday's Paris Open with shoulder and thumb injuries.

WORLD BEDOOR TOURNAMENT (Research of the property of the property

DAVIS CUP (Seost]: South Korea lead Indu 2-0



Henman out of touch in Kucera win

AFTER A match plagued with inconsistent strokes by both players, Tim Henman overcame the Slovakian Karol Kucera 6-4, 7-6 in their quarterfinal meeting at the World Indoor Tournament in Rotterdam

The British No 1 woo an early break to lead 3-2 and then wrapped up the opening set 6-4 with his third ace of the afternoon, winning in just 43 minutes. He battled back from a 4-1 deficit in the second set to lead 5-4, only for Kucera to break back immediately to 5-5.

The Slovakian fell behind again after his ensuing service game, however, allowing Henman a chance to serve for the match. Henman moved into the driving seat with three match points but then exteoded a lifeline to Kucera who, after saving two match points, hit a hlistering forehand that Henman could only volley into

Two points later Kucera sent the set to a tie-break, hustling to his right on the haseline and forehand as the Briton charged the net. Henman finally sealed his passage to the semi-final, breaking to lead the tie-break 6-4 before a Kucera lob sailed wide on the final point.

The Russian No 2 seed, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, started strongly in his match but surrendered the secood set to the fierce attack of the Swiss youth world champion, Roger Federer, before emerging a 6-1, 5-7,

In Hanover, Veous Williams comed Graf's decision to return

ALAN STOREY, who coaches a

number of entrants in today's

British trials for the World

Cross-country Championships

has a very clear view of its im-

portance in the general scheme

are Paula Radcliffe." Radcliffe.

world silver medallist oo the last

Reebok Inter-Counties Champ-

ionships, to give it the full title.

Instead, she is preparing at al-

senior version of the world

junior title she won in the snows

But such is the competition

of Boston seven years ago.

BY DERRICK WHYTE in Rotterdam

showed little mercy to Germany's Barbara Rittner, powering to a straight-sets win to advance to a semi-final showdown with Steffi Graf at the Faber Grand Prix.

Williams, seeded second. posted a 6-2, 6-1 rout of Rittner. a qualifier playing her sixth match of the £300,000 event. "I played very aggressively and went to the oet," said Williams. You have to do that if you want

to be successful against Steffi." The top-seeded Jana Novotna, of the Czech Republic, also advanced, recording a 6-1, 6-4 win over France's Sandrine Testud. The powerful Czech. who lost to Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in the final here last year, found her serve-and-vollev game well suited to the quick indoor surface and gave

Testud few chances to shine. The matct-up hetween the charismatic Williams, ranked passing Henman with another sixth in the world, and No 7 Graf had been the one the German public wanted to see. Graf, who gained a hardfought victory in her last meeting with the elder of the Williams sister, was comfortable about her chances in today's match: "Wheo I'm fit and can train well, theo I can

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

"The only reason not to run." entirely safe in missing the

two occasions, can afford to who is currently in the process

miss today's activities in Wolla- of applying for British citizeo-

titude in Albuquerque to earn a suspected food poisoning and

for the remaining five places in

the team alongside Radcliffe

that none of the women can feel

ing challengers, oo paper, is Birhan Dagne, the Ethiopian

ton Park, Nottingham - the ship. But Dagne, who has al- Elliott, Lucy Wright, Tara

ready represented Britain in

been suffering for a week from

will have to make a late decision

Storey, her coach, is half re-

signed to her dropping out, al-

oo whether she can run.

The 27-year-old French still beat the top players," said Open champion, who has competed in the Cup for the past 13 the German, "I have these circumstances here." years, said: "I want to have time Germany's women's coach, to myself and be able to live my Markus Schur, yesterday wel-

Dagne's race against time

the Ekiden relay event, has and Commonwealth medallist

though he would prefer her to run if possible. "We can stand

and talk to each other and still

bit iffy for the race," he said.

There are doubts also about the

participation of the Scottish

Vikki McPherson, but the ex-

pected presence of Heather

Heasman, the North of England

champion Jayne Spark, Lucy

Kryswicki, Sonia McGeorge

Andrea Whitcombe should en-

sure a close run thing. It is this

depth of ability that helped the

women bring back the team

brunze from last year's World

Championships in Marrakesh

of Hayley Haining and

27-28 March.

format introduced last year,

which includes shorter races.

means that 12 teams will be an-

counced by the selectors after

today's racing. The method used is identical - six selections,

with the first three past the post

taking automatic places, and

the other places being given on

a discretionary hasis.

to tier country's Fed Cup team

after a three-year absence. "I

hoped there would be an agree-

ment and I'm glad that it came

so quickly," Schur said the day

after the former world No 1 ex-

oin the team.

ssed her willingness to re-

Graf, currently seventh in

the WTA rankings, helped Germany to a Fed Cup victory in

1987 and 1992. She will lead the

German team wheo they meet Japan in Hamburg this April.

The other singles player is likely to be Anke Huber.

Williams had oo trouble

against Rittner a former Top 30

player, breaking tier serve to

take a 3-1 lead in both sets. The

veteran German was forced to

qualify because her rating has

match against Graf, 29, still

struggling to regain her domi-

nance in the women's game

after a serious knee operation.

"It will be very hard against her," Williams said. "I'm going to have to play aggressively and try to follow through on my strokes to make the points."

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez

Vicario, who announced oo

Thursday that she would not be

playing any Fed Cup matches

for Spain this year, went one

step further yesterday, an-

nouncing that she is to retire

from the Fed Cup altogether.

Williams expects a tougher

plummeted after an injury.



Christie to take part in Australian handicaps

Two leading men will he absent from Nottingham - the reigning champion Keith LINFORD CHRISTIE is to rum in oot understand what each Cullen, who has a knee injury. other is saying, but she looks a and the former European champion, Jon Brown, who, like Radcliffe, is preparing oo the other side of the Atlantic in the Botany Bay Gift race in order before lecturing athletes Sydney tomorrow with a metre which take place in Belfast on handicap from Darren Campbell. He is also a confirmed The World Championship

starter for the Stawell Easter Gift in Melbourne in March. The Stawell promoter, John

Toleman, said it was a coup for the historic 120 metres sprint. "It will probably be the last chance for Australians to see one of the best sprinters of all time," he said. "The only proviso they've asked for is that we

don't start him on scratch."

Olympic champion will take part should get its own house in these dirty things?" sports doping.

Fredericks, the world and Olympic silver medallist at 100 and 200m, said the IOC was in no position to take the moral high ground when it was emhroiled in a scandal over the se-

lection of Olympic sites. On the eve of a meeting in Sydney, the venue for the 2000 Olympics, Fredericks asked: "I hope the fOC will clean up

their house and get it in order

Namibia's Frankie Freder - because how can they tell us two races in Australia over the icks said yesterday that the In- not to be cheats, to go and be next two months. The former ternational Olympic Committee clean, when they are doing all

> "I would like to see an indeon the rights and wrongs of pendent body where the people who are testing us don't care about the Olympics," he added. "All they care about is to make sure that everybody competing is clean. If someooe tests positive, they don't really care about what the number is, they don't care about what the name is. If it's a big name, it's a big name. If it's a small name, it's a small name. If somebody is positive, they are positive, they

Leigh in for 'acid test' of fortunes

RUGBY LEAGUE

By MICHAEL LATHAM

LEIGH'S NEW Australian coach, Ian Millward, faces what he calls an "acid test" of his team's revival in fortunes at Dewsbury tomorrow when the Northern Ford Premiership again takes centre stage.

"We've already got a couple of monkeys off our back," Millward said. "We won our opening league game, which was important for confidence after finishing bottoor of the pile last year. Then we woo at Barrow in the [Silk Cut Challenge] Cup. the first away win for 17 months. Another away win

could really get things moving." Dewsbury's coach Neil Kelly was dismayed by his side's Cup exit at Oldham last Monday. "But it's early days and eventually the cream usually rises to the top." says Millward. "Dewshury were a top three side last season and this year I expect them, Hull KR and

Widnes to go strongly."
Widnes face a stiff test of their title credeotials at the Recreation Ground where the former Kiwi Test player Kevin Tamati, Whitehaven's new coach, has his side playing in the uncompromising fashion which marked this own playing career, "Once my players understand what I am after, they

will do well," promises Tamati. Hull KR, the championship favourites, are expected to be unchanged against a miserly Batley side that kept Oldham scoreless in the opening league game and theo kept out the Super League newcomers Wakefield Trinity for the opening 46 minutes of last week's Cup tie. Gary Barnett, the influeotial Batley scrum-half, returns after injury.

Bramley's latest signing, the Papua New Guinea half-back Tom O'Reilly, is set to feature at some stage wheo Keighley visit Headingley, Bramley's player-coach Mike Ford also drafts in recent recruits Maea David and Danny McAllister into his starting line-up.

David Plange, Hunslet's coach, has signed a oew twoyear contract and should celehrate with a win against a Workington side mauled 92-0 at Bradford in the Cup. Latham

Tawbal returns for Hunslet. Ray Barchard, a 29-year-old prop forward who has represented the New Zealand Maoris, is expected to make his Barrow dehut at Rochdale. while Lancashire Lynx travel to unchanged York without the injured forwards John Donno and Neil Mawdsley.

Swinton, plagued by injuries and 78-4 losers at Huddersfield in the Cup, face a difficult trip to resurgent Doocaster.

Chaos in crowd after Tendulkar is run out

PAKISTAN AND India's Asian Test Championship encounter was poised on a knife edge at BY ABDUL KHAN the close on a tense fourth day that was marred by contentious decisions and crowd trouble.

Pakistan still need four wickets and India 65 runs as they regained composure after a near riot was triggered when the home hero, Sachin Tendulkar, was run out. India, chasing 279 to win, collapsed from 134 for 1 to 214 for 6 by the close of the fourth day's play, watched by a crowd of 95,000 at Eden Gardens. India's hopes of pulling off a

win now rest mainly with Saurav Ganguly; unbeaten 00 23 and Anil Kumble (12 not out). Play was held up for 66 minutes during the afternoon ses-

sion as a section of the crowd. disappoioted at Tendulkar's dismissal, threw fruit and plasCRICKET

Pakistan 185 & 316 India 223 & 214-6

tic bottles on to the field. Tendulkar had crashed into Shoaib Akhtar just as he was about to complete a third run and then narrowly failed to beat the substitute Nadeem Khan's direct

throw from the boundary. Television replays, called by umpire Steve Bucknor, indicated Tendulkar may have grounded the bat before he banged into Shoait, but it was raised when the ball hit the wicket.

When the third umpire K T Francis rightly declared Tendulkar out because Shoaib had not collided deliberately with

the hatsman, the crowd chanted "cheats, cheats" against the Pakistani fielder and threw missiles wheo he returned to the long-on feace.

The match referee Cammie Smith called the players off the field as security men immediately ringed the outfield and ball boys cleared the debris.

Smith ordered an early tea hreak before play resumed and Tendulkar went on a walkabout in the crowd. "It was very good for Sachin to agree to our re-quest to pacify the crowd," said police chief Dinesh Vainai.

Yesterday's disturbance revived memories of the World Cup semi-final on the same ground in 1996 when Sri Lanka eventually beat India on default after a riot eoded play with the hosts oo the trink of defeat. Scoreboard, Digest, page 26



Sachin Tendulkar appeals for calm in Calcutta Reuters

Storm to appeal over bans

DERBY STORM will appeal on Monday against the seasoolong suspensions given to England's Yorick Williams and Rico Aldersoo - hut seem sure to lose their fight to clear them for the Uni-ball League Trophy final against Manchester Giants on 13 March at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

Williams and the American. Alderson, refused to allow their personal traumas to wreck the ambitions of their team-mates oo Thursday night and shared 45 points in the 93-90 defeat at Leicester City Riders which gave Derby a 10-point aggregate semi-final win

The bans were imposed for the Derby players' part in the fighting which forced the aeason against Sheffield

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

abandonment of their game at

Chester Jets three weeks ago. The appeal will be heard on Thursday. The Storm general manager, Tony Ironmonger, said: "We

length of the bans. A lot of factors are working against us, but we have got to fight all the hard-"They were a credit to the club at Leicester." he added.

are appealing against the

"Yorick, in particular, took a real battering but he just got on with the game". Williams and Aldersoo are

before the League takes a 10-day treak to accomodate England's European Championship fixtures against Belarus and Israel, and oext Saturday's All Star game.

Sharks at Moorways tonight,

After that, Derby have only five games before the Uni-Ball final, so the hans against Williams and Alderson would have to be more than halved for them to play. Without their joint leading

scorers, Derby will be the rank ootsiders for the final against Manchester, who are the only team still challenging Sheffield for the league title.

Neville Austin, of Thames Valley Tigers, has been added set for their final game of the to the England squad for next week's games.

England held up by captain Englefield

NEW ZEALAND took the hon- England Under-19 295 ours on the second day of the New Zealand Under-19 234-4 third and final Under-19 Test against in Alexandra yesterday. Replying to England's 295 all

out, New Zealand, who need to wio the match to level the series, were just 61 runs behind with six wickets in hand by the dropped by Marc Symington

way to go on a very flat pitch to get into a winning positioo. The opener Tim McIntosh and the captain Jarrod Englefield. did their best, adding 113 for the leg before for 12.

second wicket before McIntosh skied a catch to Richard Logan off Richard Dawson.

Englefield, who has been out of form in this series, was when he was on 22 and weot oo But the Kiwis still have some to make 69 before being bowled off an inside edge by Joe Tucker.

Left-arm spinner Graeme Bridge took the fourth wicket when he trapped Brad Patton

Earlier in the day, England's tail had failed to wag after they resumed on 272 for 7. Symington and Logan were out to ocor shots and England were all out before the first hour had ended.

Second day of four; England Under-19 won tass

The head of Britain's antidoping program has warned the cricket authorities they

the sport did not have a drugs problem. Michele Verokken, director of UK Sports Council's program, said the International Cricket Council should have its own worldwide testing system rather than rely on individual countries operating their own.

"You don't know you have a problem until you actually try and assess whether the problem exists," Verokkeo said, reacting to reports that the ICC does not plan to bring in drug testing at the World Cup would be naive if they thought in England in May and June. | and the play-offs but we are tak-

Cannock intend staying top CANNOCK, WHO took over the

Premier leadership last weekend from Canterbury, play host to the Kent side tomorrow in the day's top fixture. Although both teams appear likely to qualify for the end-of-season top four play-offs, the match is likely to be fiercely contested.

The Cannock and Wales manager, Martin Gilbody, agrees that the game might be something of a Welsh trial, with both teams liberally sprinkled with Welsh internationals and Canterbury are handled by the Welsh national coach, David Bunyan. Gilbody has injury doubts about three of his squad

- Michael Johnson, Jimmi Lewis and Kalbir Takher "We want to win the League BY BILL COLWILL ing it one game at a time," he

said. Speaking of the play-offs, all games of which, except the final, will be played at Reading, he added: "Although I have nothing against Reading, I find the decision to play there unbelievable. It compounds everything that is wrong about the play-offs." It is a view expressed by other potential play-

off sides, both men and women, who feel that there should have been an opportunity to play for home advantage.

Third-placed Southgate travel the short distance to Chigwell to face Old Loughtonians, who

er had odd goal wins against East Grinstead (5-4) and Canterbury (6-51. Southgate's Australian coach Neil Hawgood will be looking for consistency and full commitmeet.

Surbiton, the Division One leaders, will hope to consolidate their position away at Loughborough before they lose the services of their four South African internationals. Reading are in good spirits

after two matches in the European Indoor Club Championship in Prague. After their first game with the Russian club Dinamo Ekaterinburg ended 4-4, they beat Croatian club HK Marathon 10-3, goals coming from Mark Pearn (4), Jon Slay (3), Andrew Todd, Mark Hoskin and in last weekend's double head- Scott Ashdown.



THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Believer Brown's eternal optimism

IT WOULD appear that out predecessor. A colleague with time to kill before Keegan's press national coach to believe Brown is also a believer - though not a second-hand record shop. It had in reincarnation. Indeed the Scotland coach even gave a sermon last £1.50 to £1.

summer, prior to the World Cup finais, at Hillhead Baptist Church in Glasgow when he read from the Old Testament book of Exodus - appropriate enough giveo the Scots' early departure from France.

His theme, on which he spoke for three-quarters of an hour, was "The Worship of False Gods", which must also have met with some accordance from any football fanatics

among the congregation.
Unlike, Hoddle, much less, say, Rene Simoes - the Jamaica coach who walks around in a "Jesus Saves" T shirt - Brown, however, does not publicise his beliefs. As he says: "To be honest, I would never bang on about it, but if asked I'd place myself within the tradition of the Christian. faith. I work most Sundays which is a terrible excuse, but I'd like to be more spiritually active than I am."

When he is engaged on the subject, Brown, who in his time has been a journalist, a headmaster and a college lecturer, as well as a combative footballer for Dundee, makes rather more sense than a certain person. He says: "In a book I was reading recently I came across a comment regarding all of life's ambitions about people 'finding that when they get there, there is no there!' I've seeo many people, not just in football, climb the peaks of achievement only to feel flat, so maybe the only 'there' is the eternal.'

POP AND football, part 3,499. In a week when a former top 40 chart star was appointed England coach - Kevin Keegan hav-

ing got to No31 in June 1979 with Head Over Heels in Love - two bands have broken through with footballing connections: Surreal Madrid and Petit Voodoo. It remains to be . seen, though, whether Keegan remains head over heels in love with the England job come the anniversary of his hit. Sadly, we are more likely to be getting a tearful rendi-

the only British Isles' conference on Thursday stumbled from the president, Lorenzo Sanz, across the duet, Diamond Lights, by in spiritual matters. Craig Glenn (Hoddle) & Chris (Waddle), in been knocked down from £2.50 to

> INSTEAD OF painting a rosy picture of England's future to the media on Thursday, Keegan's time might have been better spent putting himself in the picture vis-a-vis the Polish

threat to England's European

SONG SHEET Cheisea fans' funky 66 'D', he's delightful, 'I', he's incredible, 'M', he's majestic Atalie's athletic, E. O. Matt-e-o.

Championship hopes. Had he taken himself a few miles down the A3 to Kingsmeadow Stadium he would have been able to watch a leading Polish club, Widzew Lodz, play Kingstonian,

The visitors, who are on a short ore-season tour of the country, included three full internationals among others in their side who could well be taking the field at Wembley on 27 March. Widzew, who were leading scorers in their country last season, won 3-1.

Steve McManaman whom, it is reckoned, Keegan will bring in from the cold - has been player and certainly all the pro-Mc-Manaman comments have come rather than the Dutch coach. It is a well-known fact that coaches who have signed players on free transfers - as with the Liverpool player - are under less pressure to field them than those signed for many millions. Even the player himself has admitted that his role in the side has not yet been defined. Nevertheless, the smart money is on Hiddink leaving the European champions before McManaman does.

CONTRARY TO expecta-tions, the Football Association's snappy decision to re-play last. week's FA Cup tie he-tween Arsenal and Sheffield United because of the unsporting manner in which the Gunners' "winner" was scored, has been favourably received world-wide. Giammaria Visconti, executive vicepresident of Intersectionale fund nephew of the famous film director). rang David Dein, the Arsenal vicechairman, after hearing of the FA's decision to tell him: "It could only happen in England. Here, our federation would take 18 months just to discuss what to do next." It seems that our hitherto dilatory gov-

erning body is now a trail blazer.

THE REPUBLIC of Ire-

land, who have been heavily criticised for their decision to take Robbie Keane to the World Youth Championship in Nigeria in April, causing him to miss six of Wolves' promotion games, has received support from an unlikely Midland source. Alan Thompson, the Aston Villa midfielder, reckons that young players like his own team-mate Gareth Barry (who has been excused from that championship by the English FA) are being subjected to too much pressure at a young age and IT IS rumoured that that participation in events like the Nigeria one are much more beneficial at this stage of their careers. Thompson, who competed for England in the same event seven years acquired by Real Madrid not so ago in Australia, said: "I had a great much to play as to be sold. The fact time. I am sure it would have done that the Spanish giants are £130m Gareth a lot of good to have got away tion of It Ain't Easy - another of his in debt may have something to do and had some international experirecordings which radio stations have with the latest gossip doing the ence. Youngsters getting into first been playing recently. Which is more rounds in the capital. It has been said teams at such a young age [17] is a than can be said for his poor, played that Guus Hiddink does not want the change which is creeping up on us."



WHEN WALTER SMITH got married in 1971 (above), it was surely one of his happiest moments, not to mention the start of an enduring success, as the celebration of his silver anniversary three years ago showed. When Walter took over at Everton (left) and saw his side score three goals in 13 home games he surely must have had doubts. But good things come to those who wait, as they say, and hey presto! Everton 5 Boro 0.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

that, is just begging to be deport- gain a draw with Wimbledon on ed, hadn't scored that clearly off- Murdochvision tomorrow but, if chester United (12-5); Liverpool to Lazio (£2, 10-11, William Hill). side header half an hour into injury you want to see some real class, beat West Ham (8-15); Southampton ORIGINAL BANK: £100. time against Sheffield Wednesday. watch Lazio take Internazionale's to draw with Newcastle (12-5).

ANOTHER TREBLE up to West Ham) look home banker (paying £26) last Sat- material and merit inclusion in some four-folds with Coventry to BUBERO WAGERS have been £146 if a hold Manchester United to a draw strawberry bloud Italian and Southampton to gain a draw Arsenal (home to Leicester) poor defence apart on Channel 4. SUNDAY SKY MATCH Blackburn (home to Sheffield Finally, let's add Blackburn to our Wimbledon v Aston Villa Wednesday) and Liverpool (home FA Cup portfolio.

(Five. £2 four-folds with Stanley); Arsecal to beat Leicester (1-2); Blackwho, let's face it, with a barnet like against Newcastle. Aston Villa can burn to beat Sheffield Wednesday (5-6); Coventry to draw with Man-

Draw (£2, 9-4, Ladbrokes).

BFA CUP ANTE-POST PORTFOLIO Blackburn (£1, 12-1, William Hill, Ladbrokes & Tote). SUNDAY C4 ITALIAN JOB Lacrio y internazionale

CURRENT KITTY: £171.89! TODAY'S BETS: £16.35 (inc. tax).

TO WE PERSON

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Captain Canary. Club: Norwich City. Appearance: A yellow bird with largish feathers who wouldn't hurt a fly.

Crime sheet: The Captain may lead a relatively crimefree life, but he's made the mistake of falling in love with Camilla Canary, a trouble-some tabby who has had the audacity to ruffle the hair of Norwich's most famous patron (saint), Delia Smith. Not only has the Captain fallen in love with Camilla - despite her treasonable offence against the nation's No 1 egg boiler - but worse, he com-mitted the sick-making gesture of presenting his new bird with a bouquet of roses recently.

In mitigation, Your Honour: Described by his club as a hit of a 'Tweetie Pie', Captain Canary would rather entertain the fans at Carrow Road than give Splat the Cat, his feline tormentor, the bird. The Captain tosses pancakes for charity, switches oo Christmas trees, and loves children, Ahhhh. Other information: The Captain is a peace-loving.

compassionate canary, who once offered the hand of friendship to Wolfie, the Wolves mascot, hut was promptly bitten on the neck. Reports that Wolfie was sick afterwards due to saccharine overload have not been confirmed.

MY TEAM



DAVID MELLOR CHELSEA

Task Force chairman, broadcaster, writer "I grew up in Dorset with no big team nearby and precious little football on television. I had no allegiance until I moved to London and lived a stone's throw from Stamford Bridge. At the end of the 70s the racism and violence got so bad I went across to Fulham for a while but when Ken Bates came on board in the 80s, and being an MP in a reasonably adjacent constituency (Putney), I came back. The absolute best moment was the Cup-Winners' Cup win in Stockholm - when the present team showed it matched the team of the 70s. And then winning four trophies in just over 12 months. There are a few dark horse title contenders but only three prime candidates - Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Magic Celtic momeots The prospect of Celtic beating Internazionale in a European final these days is less remote than Dumbarton's chances of winning the Premier League in Scotland within the oext five years. But for all those who like to live in the past and remember the days when the Bhoys really were the Continent's top dogs, the official Celtic site has a video and audio library which includes, amongst other things, Steve Chalmers' winning goal in the European Cup final in 1967, John Hughes' diving header against Leeds in the semi-final of the European Cup in 1970, and Tonnay Gemmell's goal from the final the same year. The site as a whole is as comprehensive as any, with up to date news, match reports, ticket information and links to other Celtic sites around the

http://www.celticfc.co.uk/

SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

HAVING PERUSED the Celtic site (above) and spent some time reminiscing on the past, there can be few better ways for supporters to spend £7 than go to the club shop and splash out on a box of Celtic Gentlemen's Handkerchiefs. Green and white, and tastefully embroidered with 'Celtic' and a shamrock, they are the perfect receptacle for tears.

THEY'RE NOT **ALL DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 27 RICARDO COSTA: The 20-year-old pint-sized Portuguese midfielder started his career with Porto in his native country hefore moving oo to Boavista and then, last month, to Third Division Darlingtoo as a trialist. Obviously not a fan of the English weather, he has already raised eyebrows at Feethams by wearing gloves (the first Quakers player to do so, apparently) but has rescued himself from any possibility of deprecatory banter by his performances on the pitch. "He's a left-sided midfielder and a nippy winger," a club spokesman said. Costa has made three substitute appearances so far On his home debut, two weeks ago against Mansfield, the speedy youngster scored a 90th minute goal to crown his side's thumping 5-1 win and help them climb to 12th in the table.



Staying ahead of the game at Madame Tussaud's each other. Gagarin, Ann of Bo- refit. Terry Venables is still there,

THERE IS only one true barometer of fame: Madame Tussaud's. If you're one of the 400 dummies on show, you're in the loop. Beyond lies the abyss to which has beens are consigned. Or at least the head room. In Modern Times: Waxworks of the Rich and Famous (BBC2. Wednesday), assorted celebs ruminated on being in with the wax crowd - and what it feels like when your time is up.

The programme was particularbe read to faraffrey heyest, who was removed following his recent run in with the French legal system.

Do you know what happens when you're deselected?" the interviewer asks him. "Deselected?" he replies. "Is that a political term or diplomatic term? What you mean locked into a fierce staring contest, is they melt them down and use



"They don't actually do that," she tells him, slightly besitantly. "They behead them." "Ah, that's not very ni..." he says, look not hurt.

The camera pans across the shelves of severed heads: Nureyev next to Kruschev Frost snuggled up to Hope, Davis Jnr whispering sweet nothings to Cilla Black, Tom Baker and Meglos the Cactus

hemia ... and Boycott. As the camera moves up his face he looks deeply offended by his fate. "Oh, thank you very much," he says when told his head is still on the shelf. "Like Henry VIII, is it? Locked up all his wives heads and put them in a corner, or a cupboard. clear whether he's being serious or

There is a star chamber that meets in secret to decide who's in les. "You a in a lag capture d." les capture d." les capture d." les capture d." les capture d. "You a in a lag capture d." les capture d." er, someone must die. Fame's like with ideas like that, Terry. that. After vigorous lobbying from the women oo the staff, Michael Owen jets the nod though we don't sons probably best and la journel. find out who he replaced. And the have been up at 6.30 on Saturday other big news is that Paul Gas- mornings watching BBC's digital Goering and Laurence Olivier won- coigne, still trapped inside his, er. venture News 24, whose domestic dering what they've done to deserve svelte 1990 guise, oeeds a major terrestrial viewing figures have ap-

down in what they call the Garden Party. "Oh no," he says when told he's next to Gazza. "Can't I even have a bit of peace and quiet in there?" Venables evinces weird views

when reflecting on the ceruminous afteritie. Beyond the shelves of Thank you very much." It's not heads there is somewhere even worse, beyond public view. The cupboard. "That's how life normally is at the end, isn't it?" he chuck-

Speaking of dummies, the less fortunate among you may, for readozens. For some misguided reason they wheel on a back to discourse on the weekend sport, and one of their regulars is Chris Maume, usually described as "Sports Editor of the Indiana, which is a laugh (I'm told he corrected the error the first time he was on but has strangely failed to on subse-quent appearances). When I taped his performance last Saturday he was on his usual gabbling form.

Generally when the exmers alights on his ashen, waxy, lifeless face he obviously sees himself on the monitor and realises with a horrid shock that he has all the vim and regions of a body recently danged from the Thames and hurriedly dried out. The insane grin he quick-

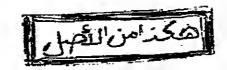
parently numbered, ooh, in the impending rigor mortis. Then, once of the most threatening aspects is he opens his mouth, sense gives in how "we're being infiltrated in such without a fight and is borne out of a directly invasive manner." How utthe studio on his prodigious wafts terly fascinating. of hot air. Fortunately for him, he usually has the patient and a said David

> questions - "Yes. Yes. Yes. Right. Yes. No, that's right. Yes. Yes. Abcoaxing rather than himself. Shut it! I wanted to scream at the screen tin fact, did scream at the screen). Robertson kicked off with the

Cristian modify to stair, Maurie's contribution amounting mainly to the fact that match-fixing is "sysly adopts doesn't come close to tematic and endemic" in the Far compensating for the sense of East (thanks for that) and that one Centre, don't give up the day job.

Desperate to claw back credi-hility, he attempted to convey an air of authority over the ringiand suc-Robertson leading him by the hand through the headlines. A curious that [Keegan] can be wooed," he and irritating feature of Maume's said at one point - "my information" style is his habit of talking over the consisting mainly of what his newspaper had printed that morning. Well, at least be can read.

Maume must also learn to keep his hands to himself. Clearly believing that if you wave them round enough, people won't listen to what you're saying, he came on all Man Pike - to the apparent accompaniment of gunfire as he slapped his microphone at one stage.



THE NOISE

Grandshine Grandshine

at the

Blere le

Wolves ready to tackle leaders

THE SUNDERLAND assistant manager, Bobby Saxton, insists his side will be able to bounce back from Wednesday's Worthington Cup heartbreak and stay on course for promotion against Wolves today. Leicester ended the Wear-

siders' dreams of reaching Wembley in midweek but Peter Reid's No 2 is confident they will pick themselves up from that setback, Sunderland, who came through the semi-final, second leg with no fresh injuries, are eight points clear at the top of the First Division and Saxton said: "We were disappointed, not because of the way we played, hut because we just couldn't get that second goal which we needed to take it into extra-time. But that's all water under the hridge now."

Wolves, who lie two points outside of the play-off positions, expect to have Neil Emblen back and their assistant coach, John Ward, said: "We're on a nice little spell and the only time we've lost in the last eight games was when we were beaten by Arsenal in the FA Cup. Sunderland are likely to he smarting a bit after going out of the Worthington Cup against Leicester, hut I can't think of a better place to go to play foothall."

The Watford manager, Graham Taylor, has set his side a target of four straight victories to propel them back into contention for automatic promotion. They are a creditable sixth in their first season since promotion from the Second Division but Taylor, who is without his leading scorer Gifton Noel-Williams for the trip to Queen's Park Rangers, is looking for further improvement He explained: "Our last six or seven games have not been our best in terms of results and we need to put that behind us. Three or four wins on the trot would

make a massive difference." OPR are slowly moving away from the relegation zone

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

BY STEVEN BAKER

but their manager, Gerry Francis, is far from satisfied. He said: We've only lost four of our last 16 games but we've been drawing a few too many games. We gave away late goals against Ip-swich and Simderland but, with three points for a win, we would have been better off if we had lost two games and won two."

Bristol City's manager, Benny Lennartsson, has warned his side they could face relegation if they lose their next two games. The Robins are next to bottom and Lennartsson, whose men visit West Bromwich, said: "Points are crucial to us at this stage. If we lose the next two games, it will be tough for us to

get out of relegation trouble." The Crewe manager, Dario Gradi, is looking for his side to develop the killer instinct at home to Stockport. Crewe, who lie at the foot of the First, have failed to win when playing well against Crystal Palace and Barnsley in the last two weeks, and Gradi said: "They're both teams who came down from the Premiership and they weren't bad results. But we were 2-0 up at Barnsley and we felt that we were playing well enough to win against Palace."

Oxford's manager, Malcolm Shotton, is seeing signs his side can pull away from the danger zone. They have moved four points clear of the relegation places and Shotton, whose team visit high-flying Ipswich, said: "We're starting to put a bit

Cottagers' first match since Kevin Keegan became England's new part-time coach, while the leaders, Preston, visit Reading and improving Manchester City face a home derby against the bottom club, Macclesfield Town.



Steve Lomas (centre), the West Ham midfielder, who was the subject of an improved £4.5m offer from Blackburn Rovers yesterday Mirror

Mexico cruise in Hong Kong

RAFAEL MARQUES, Juan By GORDON TYNAN Manuel Abundis and Luis Hernandez scored as Mexico beat Egypt 3-0 yesterday to win the Carlsberg Cup tournament in Hong Kong. The Mexicans were playing without Jorge Campos, who flew home on Thursday after their goal-Alvaro, was kidnapped in Acapulco.

The match, played in front of a 35,000 crowd, gave Mexico, who fielded many of their World Cup squad, the chance to test

they will host in July. In that tournament, Mexico play in the same group as Saudi Arabia, Bolivia and Egypt.

Marques headed home in the 34th minute following a Pavel Pardo free-kick and keeper's 65-year-old father, Abundis tapped in nine minutes later. Mexico also dominated the secood half, and Hernandez scored from the penalty spot with two minutes

The Mexico coach, Manuel

prepare for the Copa America, French Football Federation in which Mexico will again play as an invited guest along with

Hristo Iovov scored twice as Bulgaria trounced the Hong Kong League XI 3-0 to finish in third place in the four-team tournament, Hristo Stoichkov scored in the fifth minute, Hristo Iovov made it two in the 23rd minute and Iovov added his secood after the interval.

Bordeaux's Ali Bernahia has been banned for two months for deliberately stamp-

disciplinary commission on Thursday, stamped on the linesman's feet at the end of a league match at Rennes earlier this month.

Bernahia had been sent from the Bordeaux substitutes' bench for disputing a free-kick awarded to Rennes five minutes from time. Rennes equalised from the award and the game finished in a 1-1 draw.

"I apologised to the linesman and to the officials. And I told

body was injured. I didn't hit the linesman," Bernabia said.

The Giroodins' vice-president Jean-Didier Lange said the club will lodge an appeal against Bernabia's two-month suspension. Bernabia is likely to miss five of the last 10 league games and should return at Sochaux on 24 April.

The Bordeaux coach, Elie Baup, also sent off that evening, said the punishment will mar the end of the championship. "There are 10 matches to go and a two-month ban is very severe."

Inter await Lazio

ITALIAN PREVIEW

BY IAN DAVIES

LAZIO, TOP of Serie A for the first time since 1975 and favourites to win only their secand league championship (their sole Scudetto triumph was in 1974) will be out to further avenge defeats in last season's Ucfa Cup final and, more recently, in the Italian Cup when they entertain Internazionale in tomorrow's live Channel 4 game at the Olympic stadium.

Rome's big spenders, also favourites to relieve Chelsea of their Cup-Winners' Cup trophy this spring, splashed out in the summer, signing Christian Vieri, the Italian international striker from Atletico Madrid for £19m, and Marcelo "the matador" Salas, the Chilean forward, from Argentine club River Plate for £12m. Lazio were hit by injuries early on, but still gave Inter a humiliating 5-3 beating at San Siro in October. They have since staged a nine-match winning run which was only ended when Cagliari, their hosts last week held them to a 0-0 draw at their

notorious island stronghold. Conversely Inter, who meet Manchester United in the European Cup quarter finals next month, are ut disarray. Their league form, particularly on the road - they have won just two and lost five of their 11 away games - has been erratic and they lie fifth, eight points behind their hosts tomorrow. Moreover, on Wednesday; Inter hit a new low when, in the first leg of their Italian Cup semi-final, they lost 2-0 at home to Parma after three of their players were sent off, following a major run-in with the referee.

Inter's plan this season to link up Ronaldo, their brilliant Brazilian centre orward, with the veteran play-maker Roberto Baggio, signed from Bologna in the summer, has been thwarted hy injuries to both, especially Ronaldo, plagued by tendinitis since the World Cup. Inter have looked impotent without their key front men, losing 2-1 at lowly Perguia last week. Ronaldo and the winger Francesco Moriero will be mi ing tomorrow but Ivan "Barn Bam" Zamorano, their veteran Chilean striker, returns.

For Lazio, Vieri (fever) faces a fitness test, while defender Giuseppe Pancaro has influenza. Paolo Negro deputises. Other games comorrow: Bologna Empoli: Juventus v Vicenza; Milan v Cagles

the Egyptians ahead of the Lapuente, said he was using the ing on a linesman's feet. The them I accepted the ban. Of he said. "Everybody knows that Confederations Cup, which Hong Kong competition to midfielder, who attended a course I reacted badly but no-

Goram misses Celtic visit after crowd fears

TOM BOYD, the Celtic captain, believes he understands why Motherwell have chosen to rest Andy Goram tomorrow - but ham host Notts County in the : fears about potential crowd trouble were misplaced.

Boyd described the decision to drop the former Rangers goalkeeper from the team as "common sense" in the wake of media allegations of links with Northern Ireland terrorist groups, which the player denies.

PREVIEW

In the Second Division, Ful- believes the Fir Park chub's Goram hut, fearing hoth a sion," Boyd said "I feel our fans am host Notts County in the : fears about potential crowd media frenzy and a hostile re- would have given him his usual sponse from the visiting sunporters, their manager Billy Davies decided, with Goram's agreement to leave him out

> the same time is coocerned about the apparent presumption that the Celtic travelling singing songs against him.

support might have caused a

reception but, with the situation, I suppose Andy Goram has done the right thing. Even so, I don't believe our fans would Boyd appreciates why but at have done anything different aside from verbal abuse, and Andy is well used to punters

"Our fans have got a great erdeen today and Clydebank on "Maybe common sense has selves. However, it is Mother- the Tennents Scottish Cup. standing by it so we just have to

concentrate on the game." Dundee United are playing down reports of an amalgamatioo with their neighbours and Premier League rivals, Dundee. In a statement released last night, they said the matter is "pure speculation." United face their fellow strugglers Ab-

major incident during the game. reputation of behaving them- Tuesday in the fourth round of

two crucially important fixtures within the next five days," the statement read. "Given the importance of these matches the club will make no further comment on the continuing media speculation. The cluh's position remains that the present talk of amaigamation is pure speculation, nothing else."

QUOTES OF THE **WEEK**

We would prefer to have Kevin [Keegan]'s services for far longer, but, quite honestly, not many people wanted the job. Noel White of the Foot-

ball Association on the difficulties in finding Glenn Hoddle's full-time successor as England coach. I'll duck that question.

I've answered every one this week but I'll duck that one. FA interim executive director David Davies, when asked if he has given np hope of persuading Keegan to take the England joh full-time.

I want them all standing there singing the National Anthem. I'm not saying I'll drop them if they don't sing it - well, only if they're out of tune. Keegan on his new charges.

When Kevin broke into the first-team squad he used to sit on my knee when we travelled to away games. I would pretend to be the ventriloquist and Kevin would let me bounce him up and down on his knee. Journalist Tom Taylor on Keegan's days at Scunthorpe United.

Who needs Lamborghinis and Ferraris? I've got two whippets and a ferret. Boxer Paul Ingle ahead of his fight against Naseem Hamed

rm inconsolable. I was a very good friend of Jordan he was probably the greatest hasketball player this country has ever seen. Mariab Carey, singer, on being told of the death of King Hussein of Jordan

Carl market market

TODAY FOOTBALL 3.0 unless stated
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP FA CARLING PREMIERSHEP

Arsenal v Lelester

2 Stackburn v Sheffield Wednesday

3 Covenbry v Manchester Utd

4 Derby v Charlton

5 Leeds v Everton

6 Liverpool v West Harn

7 Middlesbrough v Tortenham

8 Nottingham Forest v Chelses

Southampton v Newcastic

Participal LeafGUE

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 10 Barnsley v Grinsby
11 Bury v Norwich
12 Crewe v Stockport
13 Huddersfield v Tranmere
14 Ipswich v Oxford Utd
13 Port Vale v Crystal Palace
16 QPR v Warford
17 Sunderland v Wolves
17 Sunderland v Wolves

18 Swindon v Portsm ich v Bristol City 13 West Brommer V state C SECOND DIVISION 20 Blackpoolv Lincoln Clty 21 Bristol Rovers v Luton 22 Fulham v Notts County 23 Gillingham v Cotchester 24 Manchester City v Macclesh 25 Millwall v 3roke

31 Wycombe v Burnley
THURD DIVISION
32 Carilale v Mansfield
33 Darlington v Plymouth
34 Exerce v Hardepool
33 Hull v Barnet
36 Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd
37 Peterborough v Shrewsbury
38 Rotherham v Brentford
39 Scarborough v Swarsea
Southorpe v Rochdale
Southend v Brighton
Tomus v Chester

41 Hearts v St Johnsto 42 Kilmamock v Dunie 42 Rimamock v Duntername
43 Rangers v Dundee
SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DRU
44 Andrie v St Mirren
45 Folkirk v Hibernian
46 Greenock Morton v Hamilton
47 Raith v Ayr
48 Stransaer v Ckydebank
49 Alloa v Inverness CT
49 Alloa v Inverness CT

Arbroath v Stirling Clyde v East Fife Livingston v Forfar Livingston v Fortal
 Partick v Queen of the South
 THERD DIVISION
 Berwick v Queen's Park
 Sworthin v Stenhousemuir Oumbarton v Mohan Rovers

Ross County v East Stirling

NATIONWIDE CORPERENCE

Hayes y woung
Hereford y Chelcenham
Kingstorhan y Kettering
Leek y Stevenage
Morecambe y Dover
Rushden y Hednesford
Southport y Farmborough
Telford y Kidderminster
Welling y Northwich
RA CARTSBERG WASE Shesh reame
Bedlington Terrier y Worthington; Tuenton
Town y Limington & New Milton; Therton
Town y Climeroe; Woodbridge Town y
Thame Utd.
RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Divisione BiRYMAN LEAGUE Premier Divisione BiRYMAN LEAGUE Premier Divisione SiRYMAN Service South Service South State
Stortford y Gravesend & Northieet (or St

Albars Cityl; Bromley v Aylesbury Unit Carshalton Adhlesic v Harrow Borough; Oresham
v Sutton Urd; Duhwich Hamlet v Enfeld;
Hampton v Purfleet: Hendon v Aldershot
Tower, Heybridge Swifts v Boneham Wood;
Slough Town v St Albars City, Walton 6 Hersham v Dagenham 6 Reobridge; Flass Division: Bognor Regis Twan v Braintree Kwm;
Chertsey Town v Underd City, Croydon v
Wealdstone; Grays Achlesic v Molesey;
Hitchin Town v Liboridge; Lestherhead v
Berkhamsted Town; Romford v Canvey Island; Staines Town; Maldenhead Utt; Wembley v Worthing; Whytelsafe v Barron
Rovers; Yeading v Leyton Pennant. Second
Divisions: Bedford Kown v Abrigdon Town;
Bracknell Town v Barrstend Adhletic Edguser Town v Herriford Ewan v Toxing & Micham; Hungerford Town v Northwood; Marlow v Barlding; Witham Town v
Chalfont Sc Peeer; Worther Town v Wordsor & Eton; Woklingham Town v Horsham.

wöod: Marlow v Bailding: Witham Jown v Chaifons S Pener: Whenhor Down v Whrdsor & Eton: Wichlingham Town v Whrdsor & Eton: Wichlingham Town v Horsham. Thaird Dirinations: Arelete v Wilngaber & Finchier, Cheshant v Camberley Rown: Croydon Achiete v Ford Und: Dowling v Kingsbury Town: East Thurrock Und v Lewes: Egharii Town v Tobury. Epoom & Ewell v Controllar Casuals; Flachwell Heath v Captorn: Bring Town v Southalt, Ware v Horschunds. Unwisson: Eastalt Premier Division: Bamber Bridge v Frickley Athletic. Chorley v Blych Spartars: Gasteshead v Accington Stanley: Guiseley v Schychrige Celtic, Hyde Und v Blych Spartars: Gasteshead v Accington Stanley: Guiseley v Schychrige Celtic, Hyde Und v Blych Spartars: Gasteshead v Accington Stanley: Guiseley v Schychrige Celtic, Hyde Und v Britanicam; Winsford Und v Whittby Town; Worksop v Colwyn Bay, First Divisione Achton Und v Airream Fown: Bradford Park Avenue v Martock Town: Congleton Town v Fibton; Great Harwood Town v Eastwood Town; Witton Albion v Farstey Celtic.

ley Bay v Harrigate Town: Witton Alblon v Farsley Celtic.

DR HARRI EWS LEASUE Premier Division: Amersone Und v Barton Alblon: Bath Cry v Nuseaton Borough: Boston Und v Gresley Rovers: Cambridge City v Tarmvorth, Dorchester Grav v Bromsgrove Rovers: Gloucester City v Crawley Town, Hastings v Weymouth: Hong's Lynn v Grantham: Rothwell Town v Merthyr Tydfit; Salikbury v Halesowen Town; Wortester City v likeston Town. Middland Divisione: Blakenall v Weston-super-Mare; Clevedon Town v Solimul Borough; Moor Green v Rading Cub Warwick: Newport (Gwent) v Bedworth Und: Reddich Und v Blowfith Town; Suppend Dynamo v Bilston Town; Salford Rangers v Hinddey Und: Stamford v Stouchdige vS Rugby v Cinderford Town; Sutton Coldfield Town v Evestom Und; Wisbech Town v Pager Rangers. Southern Divisions: Andower v Pisher Advietic Ashirod Town; Dartford v Baldock Town; Erith & Belvedere v Raunds Town; Erith & Belvedere v Raunds Sown; Fleer Town v Steingster: Rothridge Angels v Brackley Fown; Tark Cown V Ordersord City. SCREWRIN Director LEASUE Premier Divisions: Artifacts of Directors of Divisions: Angels v Brackley Fown; Tark of w Ridersord City. SCREWRIN Director LEASUE Premier Divisions: Artifacts and Polycold. Brackey Town; Taze Town v Cheknsford Ciry.
SCHERMEN DWENT LEASUE Premier Divisites Backweil Utd Bridgewater Town;
Bikhop Surron v Chippenham Town; Bridport v Bristol Manor Farm; Cale Town v
Bideford; Elmore v Paulton Rovers; Keynsham Town v Barnsaple Town; Westbury Und v
Odd Down; Yeovil v Brislington,
UMS SPORT UNITED COURTIES LEAGUE
Premier Division: Boston Town v Setwarts
& Llayds Carby; Eynesbury v Buchingsom
Town; Ford Sports v Kempston; Holbeach
v Wootnort Long Buckby v Mirriaes Backstone. Northampion Sporters vS. Robts; Poton v Bourne. Spaiding v Desborough;
Wellingborough v Spotiotic, Vanley v Cogenboe.

genhoe.

JEMISON WESSEX LEAGUE: Newbury v
Bournemouth FC, Touro v Gospor, Borough;
Benerron Headt Harkquins v Esstlegn;
Brodenhurst v East Coves Vics. Moreyfields
v BAT Sports; Portsmouth RN v Hamble;
Whichurch Utd v Tharenam Towa; Wimborne
Team a Chelschurch Rown v Christchurch.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Presater Philipson Concerbury City v Cristian
Town; Deal Youn v Cray Wandsress; Greenwich Borough v Crockenils. Hyte Unit v EntiTown; Lordswood v Thamesmead Town,
Ramsgare v Herne Bay; Sheppey Und v Sade Green; VCD Arthetic v Beckenilam Town;
Whitstable: Town v Faversham Town.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Dhitalon: Broadbridge Hearthy East Preston; Chikhester City y Languey Sports, Eastbourne Down y Rapham; Hassocies y Eastbourne Unit Horsham YMCA y Halisham Towns Redhill y Portfeld Stegmer y Storeham: Sateban Utd y Burgers Hill Town; Whitehawk y Sebsey. MORTH WESTERN TRAINS: LEAGUE First Dhitalon: Atherton LR y Boode; Cheadle Yown Yearnsbottom Utd; Woshey y Holker Old Berys: Newcaside Town y Holker Old Boys: Newcaside Town y Holmother College County Holmother College (College Visional Park Rossendale Utd y America City y Vaunal Old Supressale Utd y Maine Road.

Ucid v Maline Road.

**RORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pramier Dhaslow: Buston v Garforth Town: Eccleshill Ucid v Ossert Albion; Glasshoughton Weifare v Pontefract, Hailanv Armcharpe Weifare; Uversedige v Denaby Utit; Maliday v Armold Town: Ossert Town v North Ferriby, Pickerig Town v Brigg Town; Setby Town v Sheffield; Staveley v Thack-

Setby Town v Sheffield; Staveley v Trachety.

ENTERLINK EXPRESS MEDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmare St Michaels v Pelsal ValLiance: Boldmare St Michaels v Pelsal ValLiance: Boldmare St Michaels v Pelsal ValLiance: Sancount Barvened Knypersiely Victoria
v Stourport Swifts; Persitore Town v Wednesfield: Rushiel Olympic v Halseower Harriers: Sanchell Chympic v Halseower Harriv Bridgeoch Town; Wildelhall Town v Xxxx

Neuron East Farmouth Rown v Sudbury
Vienderers; History v Middon Town: Lowestolt
v Falsenham : Softam Town v Newphirets :
Stowmarkel, Zown v Bury Zown; Sudbury
Town v Felisstowe Port & Town; Wrosham
v Watton.

v Watton.

ARMOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE Piras Divisions Consett v West
Auddand: Crock Town v South Shields: Cunson FB v Billingham Synthonia, Easington
v Shidon; Guisborough Town v Jantow Rooling, Marshe Utd v Row Law Rown: Marpeth
Town v Chester-LeStreet, Newcaste Blue
Star v Billingham Town; Seaham Red Star
v Pendia.

LEAGUE OF WALES: BATTY TOWN V TNS

Man Utt.

Arsenal

Liverpool

West Ham

Derby .

2 Tottenban

3 - Leicenter

4 Shell Wed

15 Evertoe

16 Blackborn

17 Commery

18 Charlton

Chelsea

Lansantifraid (2.30); Comnarton Town v Aran Lido (2.30); Connarts Quey v Inter Cable-Ticl Cardiff (2.30); Connay v Commer (2.30); Rivyl v Bangor City (2.30).

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora Rangers v Rother; Buckle Thistie which Academy, Cachnacidin v Peterhead; Eight City v Franchungh; Fornes Mechanics v Cove Rangers; Handly v Naim County; Keith v Fort William.

SMBRINGFF BESSH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Omagh v Newry. First Division: Omagh v Newry. First Division: Omagh v Newry. First Division: Quagrando Swifts v Bangor (Effective Cardick v Ards Cifrorwite v Gentoran, Coloraine v Loughast Unic Distillery v Brantovood; Genavon v Crusaders; Linfeld v Chimney Corner.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Finn Harps Witterford (7.30); Sigo Rovers v Boherikars (7.30)

RUGBY UNION LLOYDS TSB FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP (at Weinbley Stadium)

ALLIED DUNBAR REMIERSHIP TWO Fyide v Rotherham (2.30)

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER
CUP SECOND ROUND London v Scottish Sale (11.0) ... JEWSON HATIONAL LEAGUE ONE Moriey v Rossiyn Pork (3.0)..... Newbury v Henley (12.45) Navingry a meritry (12.49).
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TWO NOTTH (2.30): Sedgley Park v Sandal: Sheffield v Kendal; Walsali v Hinckley.
TWO SOUTH: Barking v Briggivoter (2.15): Bracknell v Redruth (2.15): Chelennam v Norwich (2.30): Esher v Clifton (1.30).

CLUB MATCHES: London Welsh v Scot-cish Districts (11.0).

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BASKETBALL

CHALLENGE CUP Semi-fittal, First leg: Sheffield v Manchester (7.0) SEXONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr v Nev-HOCKEY

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SOUTH Premier: Blackheath v Beckenham: Bournemouth v Madernhead.
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Colchester: West Herts v Ipswirch,
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Premiers Gloucester City v Cheltenham;
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Yeovil & Sherborne; West Wilks v Yaunton
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WOMEN'S Etd. Premier: Clifton Scot-rish Life v Hightown (2.0): Doncaster v Slough (12 D): Fylfes Lekester v Ipswich (12 50): Otton Tetraquest v Suton Cold-field (11 O King Edward VI School, Edg-basten) Pirst Division: Aldridge v Wimbledon (130): Chelmsford Highway v Lough-borough Students 12 151, Sunderland Ashbroke v Canterbury (12.0), Tiojans v Biadford (130)

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12.30). Old Loughtonkans v Poynton (1.0).

St Albans v Bracknell (1 0)

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WOHEN'S EAST Premier: Cambridge
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Wyt:imbe Rye v Windson

SNOOKER: Scottish Open (Aberdeen

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL M CARLING PREMIERSHIP on v Aston Villa 14.01 . . NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION angham v Balton (1.0),

Motherweil v Celtic (6 05) . LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Haver-HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Cork City v Derry City (12.0), UCD v Shelbourne 13.15[.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE 3 0 unless stated NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP

Hull R R V Barley

Hurslet v Workington (3.30)

Rochdale v Barrow

Whitehaven v Widnes (3.30)

York v Lancashire Lyrix

RUGBY UNION ALLIED DUMBAR PREMIERSHIP TWO Coventry v Bristol (2 0) ...

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUGESTER CUP SECOND ROUND Gioucester v Lecis (3.0)

Moseley v Wakefield (2.0)

Newcaste v Richmond (2.0)

Newcaste v Richmond (2.0)

Seraces v Bath (3.0)

Seraces v Bath (3.0) CLUB MATCHES: London Irish XV v Sur-

BASKETBALL

ICE HOCKEY CHALLENGE CUP Sent-final, First leg: Cardit v Nottingtom (2 D). SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE; Newcastle v

EHI. Premier: Boarmille v Teddington 117-30); Brocklandsv Guldford (2 Dr. Car-nock v Cantestury (2 30). Hourstow v Bee-ston (2 Dr. Odd Leughtomans v Southgare (2 Dr. First Divisions Borford Togers v St Athans (2 Dr. Bromley v Indua Gymhans (2 Dr. Bromley V Dr. Dr. Cantestury 1). Ol. Dongaster v Stow port (2.0). East-cote v Isca (1 Dr. Hampstead & Westmin-ster v Oxlord Hawks (12 30). Harleston Magnies v Lewes (2.0). Half v Hawn (2.30); Deford Univ v Freibrands (2.0). Seeffeld ighborough Students v Surbiton (2 ford Univ v Firebrands)2 0). She WOMEN'S NORTH Pers Division

OTHER SPORTS **FOOKER:** Scottish Open (Aberdeen)

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

FULL TRANSFERS Free or unduclosed lees unless stated

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LOANS/TRIALS

Howard Perinten (lorus/rd) Burningham Cey
to Blackpook: Carl Sarvant (defender) Newcastle to Bury. Phal Hall (moffelder) Coventry to Blury. Warrum Aspinali (moffelder)
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Swonese Ciry. Paul Harrim (forward) Crystal Palace to Torquay Urd, Des Hamilton (detender) Newcostle to Vatodersfled; RobZarnsham (defender) Cardiff to Middlesbrough; Sen Roberts (goalkeeper) MiddlesDerived (midhelder) Blacktown to Schilten;
David Michaeme (midhelder) Blacktown to Schilten;
David Michaeme (midhelder) Blacktown to Schilten; Coventry City to Dundee Utd. Barrains or Parries (midhelder) Blackburn to St. Mirrent David Bickbarns Birchburn Blackburn to St. Mirrent David Bickbarns en St. Mirrent Samon Browns (goalheeper) Toxterham to Aylesbury Begnald Padros Indicated Parma (II) to Sneffleid Wednesday Iran), Bonden Genthers (forward) CSIA Sofa (Bull) to Colchester (Utd.): Stephen Halling (Forward) Mothermed to Colchester (tri-al), Paul Basker (forward) Hardespool Utd no Phymouth Arpyle (trial); Balkhanet Bedenthenous (midfleider) Busher (forward) Hardespool Utd no Phymouth (Iral), David McGaleen (midfleider) Brenderd to Phymouth (Iral), Paul Hodgerone (midfleider) Hibernian to Ipsoich Town (Iral); Bilchael Gettffittes (Iorward) Wordesser (Iral); Bilchael Gettffittes (Iorward) Wordesser (Iral); Bilchael Gettffittes (Iorward) Hottlew Town to Oldham Athletk (Iral).

Everton intent on displaying hidden talents

FIRST, AN apology. In recent weeks BY GUY HODGSON these columns might have implied watching Everton was akin to watching paint peel and that only those with long pockets, tedious lives or severe inclinations towards self-harm would pay money to gain entrance to Goodisoo Park.

It has since been brought to our attention that the team is brimming with entertainers, their strikers can shoot straight and that they are dripping with goals. We apologise for any misunderstanding our earlier comments may have caused.

There, you never expected to read that this season, and even Everton's their goalkeeper, Thomas Mybre, most blue-eyed supporter must be said, "but we've not scored many fearing that the events of the past eight days are a mirage in a desolate to get the right result. Our players

desert of scoreless draws but, if ever a team illustrated that a week in politics is considerably shorter than one in football, they have.

Seven goals (two in the FA Cup. five against Middlesbrough) have transformed the mood in half of Merseyside and Everton travel to Leeds today in hope rather than trepidation of scoring successive wins in the Premiership for the first time since January last year.

"Defensively, we've been quite solid as a unit, especially at home," goals. We've needed a bit of fortune are good enough not to be in the position in the table we're in."

The transformation has come partly due to the abandonment of the over-rigid 3-5-2 formation that too easily led to five men at the back, and to the re-emergence of Nick Barmby. He has scored four goals in Everton's last five games and, op-erating on the left, is alternatively drifting to bring much-needed width or even more desired striking options. "His form over the last few games has been tremendous," Walter Smith, his manager, said of a player who has not always justified his £5.75m fee. "He is now per-

forming to his full potential." Barmby's last two goals were against his former club Middlesfar below them. Today they meet Tottenham at the Riverside in a match proving that attitude rather than points can be more important.

Spurs are a point behind today's opponents, but whereas their season appears to be on the up on the back of reaching the Worthington Cup final Boro, who have not woo so far this year, are becoming increasingly gloomy.

"We had a fantastic start to the season," their goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer said, "but we've slipped away in recent weeks and we need to get back on track and climb the league again." Too right they do.

Of the Premiership leaders, Ar-

home game against Leicester who have alarms of their own after slinping into the bottom eight.

The Double winners emerged from their test at Old Trafford in midweek content that they had stopped a potential eight-point gap emerging between themselves and Manchester United. The Gunners now embark on a run of seven games against clubs at 10th place or below, so they have it in their hands to build the momentum they achieved last spring.

Dennis Bergkamp is available after his one-match ban but his manager, Arsène Wenger, was so impressed by Nwankwo Kamu on his son said. "It's just a matter of getting Premiership debut that he sudden- our heads down and concentrating."

hrough, who are falling so fast that senal appear to have the most com-they are every bit as anxious as clubs for table fixture of the weekend, a up front. "You could see from the up front. "You could see from the start that Kanu has a great talent," he said. Bergkamp on the bench? It could happen.

Manchester United travel to Coveniry and a ground which gave Alex Ferguson an unhappy end to 1997. His team were leading 2-1 with four minutes to go when Darren Huckerby took flight to earn the Sky Blues an unlikely 3-2 win. This time United arrive at Highfield Road with an 11-match unbeaten run and with the potential to use Ryan Giggs again as be returns from a hamstring injury. "The team is playing well and the spirit is great," Fergu-

Spare a thought for Coventry's Bosnian centre-back Muhamed Konjic, who made his full debut against a rampant Alan Shearer in a 4-1 defeat at Newcastle and now faces the prospect of Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke, who have the little matter of 40 goals between them. And someone told him it was easy money in the Premiership...

Ron Atkinson would not agree with that. Nottingham Forest were massacred 8-1 by United two weeks ago and the team they face today are the second highest scorers on their travels, Chelsea. A Forest win against the Premiership's secondplaced side is unlikely. But impossible? When Everton can score five, nothing is that any more.

McAllister points way to brighter future

Coventry City's inspirational leader is back to his best ready for the challenge of Manchester United today. By Phil Shaw

terest in football has heard of the Hand of God, Many Scots revel in the pious indignation it provokes in the English and celebrate it in song. Gary McAllister, always his own man, is probably alone among his countrymen in having fonder memories of God's Finger.

No, it is not a sex aid, although people have been known to wax orgasmic beneath its erect form. Nor is it anything to do with the "It could be you" slogan, even if it is used in the build-up to a four-yearly international lottery. And there is no direct link with Diego Maradona.

God's Finger is actually a mountain near Rio de Janeiro, at the foot of which lies Brazil's World Cup training camp. McAllister was there last spring, pitch-side for the Channel Four programme Planet Football, gazing in awe as the likes of Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and a personal favourite. Rivaldo, trained for a friendly against Argentina and the forthcoming festival in France.

While he had progressed heyoud the stage of feeling forlorn about the cruciate-ligament injury which had already ruled him out of the World Cup, it was nevertheless a fillip to McAllister's morale to be recognised by Rene Simoes, Jamaica's Brazilian coach. Moreover, the sagacious Simoes knew all about his knee problem and had some unusual advice.

"He's heavily into sports psychology," McAllister explains, "and he assured me that the physical side of my recovery wouldn't be a problem. It was the mental aspect I needed to concentrate on. He suggested that every night, I should close my eyes for 15 minutes and picture all the positive things I've done in matches: great goals and free-kicks, going past opponents, and so on,

So did you do it? "I told him," he replies, unable to stifle a laugh, "I'd need at least an hour for that!" McAllister's response was the stoical humour of a player striving to keep his spirits up rather than conceit. hut, whatever methods he used. Scotland's playmaker leads Covcotry City today against the Premiership leaders, Manchester United, in arguably his best form since he left

Leeds two and half years ago. In the Sky Blues' last home game he dominated midfield in opposition to Liverpool's England partnership of Paul Ince and Jamie Redknapp. Last Saturday brought a deflating FA Cup exit at Everton, but McAllister a friend becomes your boss. We still scored with the kind of cunningly talk about football things but we don't

py his mind's eye for several minutes on the Simoes scale.

Defeat at Goodison Park left Coventry in the familiar position of having nothing to look forward to except the fight to protect their 32-year tenure in the top flight. Despite a further setback at Newcastle on Wednesday, McAllister is convinced they will survive. Not because they have always done so, but "because we're good enough"; and because, in Darren Huckerby and Noel Whelan, they possess the attackers to score the requisite goals.

"I've played with some fantastic strikers - Eric Cantona, Tony Yeboah, Lee Chapman - but they were all relatively old. The exciting thing about Darren is that he's so young. There's no limit to what he could achieve.

our juniors at Leeds when they beat Manchester United in the Youth Cup final and he stood out above the Beckhams and Scholes. He was

To get the better of United you have to stand toe-to-toe and battle with big international players. Any sign of weakness and they'll go for it'

very versatile then. He's definitely a forward now, with real craft."

But McAllister is at a loss to explain why Coventry have failed to huild on last season's mid-table finish. "At the start of the season I had high hopes of coming back in the auturnn into a side that was flowing and well up the table. It didn't happen and I wish I knew why. People say that selling Dion [Dublin] can't have helped, but he was here for the first 15 games and we were in the bottom three or four then.

Even though Coventry needed the points, McAllister was not rushed back the way he might have been at some clubs. Gordon Strachan, the manager, trusted him to say when he felt ready. The respect is mutual, says the captain, though their relationship has changed since they played together for Leeds and

Scotland. "That goes without saying when

EVERYONE WITH even a passing in-flighted set-piece that would occu-really socialise. The other players wouldn't feel that was right, under-

standably." McAllister believes that Strachan, who tends to be fiery where he is phlegmatic, is growing into the role. "Gordon certainly speaks his mind, hut I've seen him count to 10 a few times lately in heated situations. Everyooe says he wants us to play with the passion he shows, but that's the least he expects from us.

"His belief is that you may have special skills but you won't be able to show them unless you give maximum effort. Look at [Zinedine] Zidane for France against England last week. It might have looked as if he was walking about, but it wasn't a coincidence that every time he got the ball there was nobody near him. That was down to sheer hard graft."

McAllister, who was 34 on Christ-"Snowy (Whelan) was the star of mas Day, harbours managerial ambitions of his own and has observed with particular interest the progress of another ex-colleague, David O'Leary, at Elland Road. "David always had his own ideas and was pretty shrewd. You don't last 20-odd years as a top-class defender by

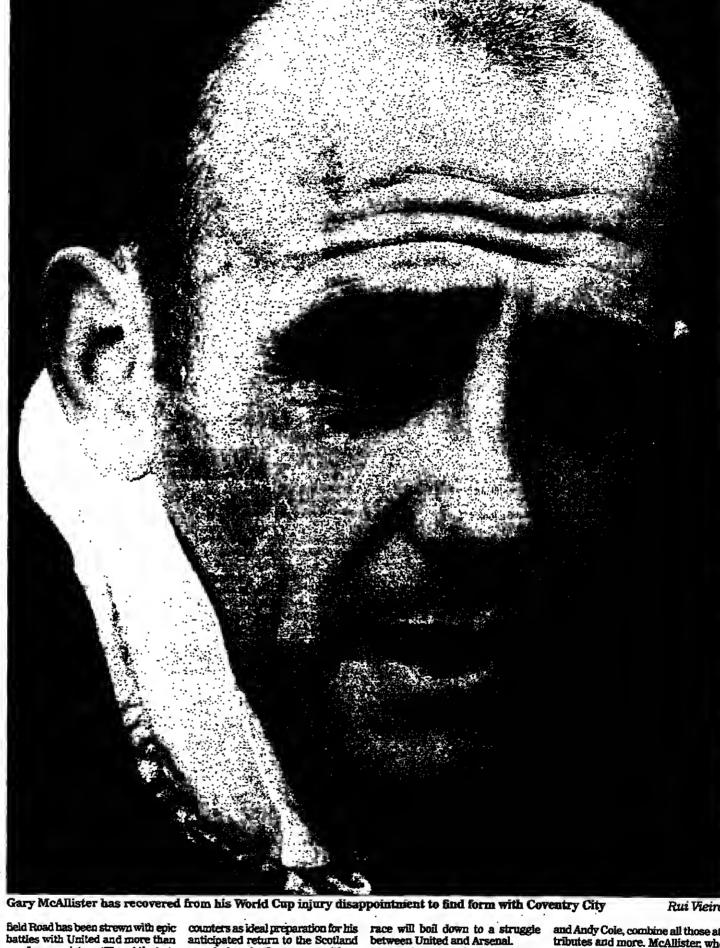
"If someone told me that my first job as a manager would be with Leeds United, I'd certainly be interested. I don't know where I'll start. But all I know is football and I want to stay in it. There's pressure, sure, but it's good pressure, not stress as

He has become accustomed to Leeds fans booing him for his supposed betrayal of their club (though he points out that he twice declined moves when they tried to offload him and was prepared to stay for a salary far smaller than Coventry were offering); and, ironically, to being barracked by Manchester United's followers for helping the Yorkshire side pip them to the championship in 1992.

Curiously, McAllister could have been part of the Old Trafford set-up. himself. From the age of 12 to 16, during the reigns of Dave Sexton and Ron Atkinson, be was promised to United. Every school holiday, he travelled from Bellshill - coincidentally. Sir Matt Busby's home town - to train with other wannabes such as Mark Hughes and Norman

"In the end, United came up to Lanarkshire to our house to tell me they weren't taking me," he remembers. "A nice way to deliver bad news, I suppose."

The route that led him to High-



one famous victory. "To get the better of them you have to win the individual battles, stand toe-to-toe with big international players. In my case that means people like Paul Ince and then Roy Keane. Any sign of weakness and they'll go for it, but they're very enjoyable games."

McAllister, who views such en-

squad when the Euro 2000 qualifiers resume next month, is excited by the panache of Cheisea, whom he sees as a more resilient version of Kevin Keegan's Newcastle. Although he has also been impressed by the progress of Aston Villa and by the manager John Gregory's straight-

"I reckon United will win it, but themselves, Arsenal and Chelsea are playing a different game from the rest of us. Things have moved on since we finished top at Leeds seven years ago. You could win games through power and pace then. Now there's more sophistication."

United's front two, Dwight Yorke

and Andy Cole, combine all those attributes and more. McAllister, who believes the strike-force is the most important unit in any side, calls them "a midfielder's dream... the best pair in the country". Coventry have a mountain to climb, both today and in the months ahead, yet the man from God's Finger will be doing his days on the Sky Blue horizon.

Man Utd

Charlton

In the wake of omnipotent Brian

AS A seven-year old in the autumn of 1977, living in the comfortable Middiesex suburb of Hounslow, being told (due to paternal work commitments) that we were going to relocate and start a new life in a new city was the most traumatic piece of news I have ever heard. The tectonic plates had shifted and the ground had opened up before me. With whom would I swap my Star Wars cards? Would they still show The Six Million Dollar Man on the strange planet (called

Nottingham: I was moving to? Although I recognised the new culture as close to my own, there was a fundamental difference in the belief system of the new species. The ubiquitous red and white scarves to stave off the colds it is colder up north). A seven-year-old "Kenny Burns" tackling an eight-year-old "Tony Woodcock" in the playground. And then there was that higher Cup final of 1978 and suddenly I was ers very good, and very good playbeing they worshipped in this new watching my city beat Liverpool, ers world-beaters. The list of players "Cloughie" prayer mat out already.

FAN'S EYE **VIEW**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST BY ADRIAN MCGREEVY

land, who was always on the television, in the papers, everywhere. This deity was easily recognisable - he was omnipotent after all - and his name was Brian Clough.

I remained nominally, thanks to supporter in my first tew months in Nottingham, hut after returning to Hounslow for a weekend visit my conversion finally took place, and when it came, it overpowered me. I was sitting in London, watching the League

Peter Shilton. When we won the championship that season, my indoctrination was complete. Anyone for a nostalgic rendition of We've got the whole world in our hands?

Brian Clough was the greatest no question. During his reign at Forest, except for the final year in charge (the relegation year, I tend to think of it now as a Dallas-esque dream sequence which should be erased from the history books in respect to the man), Liverpool and Forest were the only two teams to finish avuncular influences, an Aston Villa in the top half of the table every single year - every single year! That's consistency for you. That's 15 years on a hudget that wouldn't pay for Duncan Ferguson's left toenail.

He made bad players mediocre. mediocre players good, good play-

thanks to the determination of a very who "failed" after leaving Forest is young Chris Woods deputising for monumental, and most of them went to Manchester United (hal) -Davenport, Birtles, Webb et al. Pundits talk of Roy Keane as the complete midfielder but anyone who saw him at the City Ground realises he isn't half the player now that he was when playing for us.

Every civilisation has to come to an end, but why did the destruction have to happen so suddenly at Forest? Forest, the jokey acronym (Fighting Off Relegation Every Saturday Teatime), Forest the yo-yo specialists. What's become of us? Roo Atkinson? Please! I suppose we'll have to wait another hundred (thousand) years for a similar civilisation to emerge in Nottingham. I suspect we might never see its like again and we will have to be content with worshipping a deity that has long since gone. I have my

Kohler forced to quit

DAVID KOHLER is to step down as Luton Town chairman and leave the club after his home was threatened with a petrol bomb yesterday.

Kohler took over the club eight years ago but two relegations have seen Luton slump into the Second Division. Some fans have blamed him because of the club's policy of selling players to balance the books. They also complained that he was drawing a salary which the club could ill-afford to pay, having appointed himself managing director. He owns 52 per cent of the football club's shares.

Chalrmen are coming increasingly into the firing line - the Port Vale chairman Bill Bell's car dealership was vandalised recently. More seriously, though, in the early hours of yesterday, a petrol bomb and matches were pushed through the letterbox of Kohler's home near St Albans. They were not ignited.

"Tve been involved with Luton Town for a quarter of my life and have

"What happened is an act that any reasonable person must deplore. As a husband and father of three children, the youngest only five weeks old, my primary responsibility is to them. The police have viewed this petrol bomb as a warning. However, I am not prepared to use my family as a shield or place them in any circumstances

that could endanger them." The Blackburn Rovers manager Brian Kidd is to make an improved £4.5m offer for West Ham's captain Steve Lomas, with the possibility of a cash-plus-player exchange deal.

Kidd's need for the Northern Ireland international increased yesterday, with fears that Billy McKinlay may need groin surgery. The midfielder is to see a leading specialist and

may require a long spell of rest. The combative McKinlay had a hernia operation last summer after

always tried my best to act in the in-terests of the club," Kohler said, vital final weeks without his son vital final weeks without his services. Now Rovers will offer more cash to hasten the Lomas move. They may also try to exchange one of their strikers as an option - Nathan Blake or Kevin Davies could be sacrificed.

Dwight Yorke has applied for British citizenship but does not expect his new status to catapult him into Kevin Keegan's England side. The Trinidad and Tobago international says he wants to be a British national to save time at airports. The Manchester United striker is tired of lengthy check-ins when be returns from European trips with the Reds.

Trevor Francis's £2.5m move for the Crystal Palace pair of Lee Bradbury and Craig Moore has hit a snag because the players will have to take a pay cut. The Birmingham City manager is willing to pay the fee to cash-strapped Palace, but both Bradbury and Moore are on salaries above Scotland's World Cup campaign and Birmingham's wage structure.

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Weekend guide to the Premiership



Nottm Forest v Chelsea

SO MUCH for Ron 'Red Adair' Atkinson's fire- BY NICK HARRIS fighting ability. A win in his first game in charge may have doused the flames for a few days - but that match was followed by an 8-1 home defeat to Manchester United and a 2-1 submission to the recently out-of-sorts West Ham. On current form, he could be facing a towering inferno by the time Gianluca

Vialli's title-chasing Chelsea have left the City Ground this afternoon. Atkinson yesterday admitted he was facing a further dileroma over Carlton Palmer, whom he signed for £1.1m from Southampton last month and wanted to play as a midfielder. In the lanky dynamo's first three appearances for the Premier League's bottom club, Atkinson has bad to play Palmer

at the heart of the back four in an attempt to plug Forest's leaky defence. Big Ron still wants to push the 33-year-old - who, contrary to his image, must be one of the hardest working players in the country - into midfield to provide attacking options and admits he is now faces a selection problem.

Palmer himself said: "I really don't have much of a standpoint on the issue. It was Big Ron who converted me into a midfielder. I'm happy in either position and feel I can do a job in both." If Atkinson does decide to ask Palmer to play in midfield, it is likely to open the way for club captain Steve Chettle to return to the starting line-up. Chettle has yet and could play some part alongside Franck

to start a game under Atkinson but stepped off the bench in last weekend's defeat at the hands of the Hammers to make his 500th senior appearance for the club. "That wasn't the way I wanted to pass that milestone, and I'm just hoping to get back in again." Chettle said. "None of us will give up hope until it's no longer mathematically possible for us to stay up," he added of the relegation struggle. Atkinson is considering recalling Jean-Claude Darcheville to partner Pierre van Hooijdonk (left) at the expense of Neil Shipperley. Another change he will have to make is at right back. John Harkes has a calf injury so Matthieu Louis-Jean will deputise. Albert Ferrer (knee) is back in Chelsea's

Lebeouf (right) but manager Gianluca Vialli is without suspended the midfield duo Dennis Wise and Roberto Di Matteo. Tore Andre Flo is back in training after his knee operation, and Graeme Le Saux should be fit despite a kick on the hip forcing him out of Wednesday's 1-1 draw against Blackburn. After Vialli's sending-off in midweek, Gianfranco Zola is the Blues' only remaining striker neither injured nor facing a suspension. NOTTINGHAM FOREST (150m) Beasant Louis Iran, Stein-sus, Cherte Heide, Pamer Stone German, Johnson Ritgers, Dorcheulte Shipperley, Van Hublidzen, Freedman, Panhiro, Bart-Williams, Bonatas, Woon, Gray, Challey

CHELSEA from: De Son, Lambourbe Leboral Discus, Baba yara, Le Sour, Morns, Perresca, Vol. 1703, Forsser, New ran Hechtock, Goldtuck, Myers, Ferrer Nichalls, Terry sions: Choisea: Wise IN Nation





DENNIS BERGKAMP is back from a one-match suspension and will be one of several Arsenal changes from the team that drew 1-1 at Manchester United in midweek. The Dutch striker is likely to replace new signing Nwankwo Kanu, who made an impressive Premiership debut at Old Trafford. Full-back Nigel Winterburn is out with a one-match ban for eight yellow cards, centre-half Martin Keown is still out with hamstring trouble, and captain Tony Adams or veteran Steve Bould could be rested. Nicolas Anelka may also be rested, and Arsene Wenger has already said Emmanuel Petit - who completes a three-match suspension today -will not be recalled for Tuesday's FA Cup replay against Sheffield United after aggravating an ankle condition in the England-France game. Nelson Vivas replaces Winterburn, while either Stephen

Hughes or Rémi Garde will deputise for Petit. Leicester's Emile Heskey faces a late fitness test on a back injury but is likely to struggle to pass it. The attacking duo of Andy Impey and Arnar Gunnlaugsson return to the squad after being cup-tied for Wednesday night's Worthington Cup semi-final win

ARSENAL (from) Seaman; Dison, Adams, Bould, Upson, Visia, Parlous Vieira, Hughes, Garde, Overmars, Berglamp, Anelia, Diawara, Kanu, Grimandi, Manninger, LEICESTER CITY (from); Keller, Apphenod, Guppy, Utlathome, Taggars, Sindak, Walsh, Elliott, Kaamark, Izzet, Lennon, Savage, Parler, Gunnlaugsson, Impey, Cottee, Heskey, Wilson, Campbell, Marshall, Zagorakis.



Blackburn v Sheff Wednesday



CHRIS SUTTON will have a lunchtime fitness check to see if he is fit enough to lead the Blackburn line. He injured an ankle at Chelsea in the 1-1 midweek draw. Billy McKinlay and Christian Dailly both remain absent through injury. Stephane Henchoz (thigh) is expected to get the all-clear Long term absentees Kevin Gallacher Gairf Thirtroff and Damien Johnson are still out. Brian Kidd, the Rovers manager, said yesterday he was optimistic about Sutton "The backs with him. We'll have a look at him before the game and make a decision then." Blackburn have lost only once under Kidd, who has steered the club from bottom to

Sheffield Wednesday's England left-back Andy Hinchcliffe is doubtful with a knee problem, while his potential replacement, Dejan Stefanovic, has a shoulder injury. Centre-back Jon Newsome is also doubtful with a hamstring strain, so youngsters Steven Haslam and Mark McKeever are in the squad. Wednesday have won just once in their last nine visits to Blackburn. 3-2 in October 1982.

BLACKBURN ROWERS (from) Filon, Kenna, Henchoz, Broomes, Croft, Dunn, Marcolin McArcer, Junsen, Sutton, Ward, Gillesple, Blake, Dulf, Flowers, Peacock, Davidson

Dawies. SHEFFIELD WEDESDAY (from): Pressman. Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Sanetti, Coblan, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Cakes, Hinch-cliffe, Emerson, Rudi. Alexandersson, Sonner, Morrison, Haslam, McKeever, Clarke.



Coventry v Man Utd



STRUGGLING COVENTRY will be unchanged from the side that lost to Newcastie in midweek. Bosnian international centre-back Muhamed Konjic will make his home debut after playing his first full game on Wednesday following his £2m move from Monaco. Manchester United have Denis Irwin back in contention for

a place. The Republic of Ireland full-back could take over from Phil Neville. Ryan Giggs is likely to start on the bench even though be has recovered from his hamstring injury. The Welsh international returned to action after two weeks on the sidelines when he came on near the end of Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Arsenal at Old Trafford. Alex Ferguson wants to improve Giggs' match fitness but he is also wary of the threat heavy pitches pose to his player, with their European quarter final first leg against Internazionale looming. I want to see the conditions at Coveniry, and with a lot of rain about, heavy pitches are playing a part at the moment." Ferguson said. Giggs himself said: "I've been training now for about a week. I'm just looking to get a few games under my belt with the Internazionale game coming up." United have won five out of six Premiership matches at Coventry. COVENTRY CITY (from) Hedman, Nilsson, Konife, Shaw, Burrows, Boateng, McAllister, Soltwett, Froggatt, Huckerby, Whelan, Clement, Alolsi, Glaocchini, Edworthy,

lister, Soltweit, Froggatt, Frankricher, G. Neville, Johnsen, Stam, P. Neville, MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichet, G. Neville, Johnsen, Stam, P. Neville, MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichet, G. Neville, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Keane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Keane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Keane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Cole, Yorke, Scholes, Solskjaer, Inwin, Giggs, May, Back ham, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Golden, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Golden, Reane, Butt, Blomqvist, Golden, Gold Beckham, Keane, Butt, Blomqvist, C Brown, Berg, Van Der Gouw (gk). Referee: O Gallagher.

Derby v Chariton



DERBY COULD be without the creative skills of the Italian Francesco Baiano, who has a sciatic problem. Their manager Jim Smith, has Lars Bohinen lined up to replace Baiano in midfield. Bobinen is fit again after a bout of fiu, and the striker Paulo Wanchope has recovered from a hamstring injury and could also be involved at some stage. Rory Delap, who has been out since Boxing Day when he injured knee ligaments at Everton, is back in full training and is included in the squad.

Chariton's leading scorer, Clive Mendonca, is in contention for ASTON VILLA'S Mark Bosnich could make a return. Mendonca has been out since injuring his groin in training on Christmas Day, but is in the squad after completing his third reserve game in midweek. Paul Mortimer played a reserve match on Wednesday and could also be added to the squad, with Andy Petterson moving up to reserve goalkeeper following Sasa Ric's injury in training. Alan Curbishley could name an unchanged side from the team that beat Liverpool last weekend, meaning John Barnes would again have to settle for a place on the bench. DERBY COUNTY from Hoult, Prior Carbonari, Stime, Laursen, Carsiey, Branto, Bohmen, Dorigo, Burton, Sturridge, Wanchope, Delap, Powell, Schnoor, Hame, Harper, Balano, Kright (gk).

CHARLETON STEEL STATE (Month Delay, Powell, Schnoor, Hame, Harper, Powell, Schnoor, Hame, Harper, Powell, Schnoor, Hame, Harper, Manager, Manager,

er, Balano, Kright (gk).

CHARLTON ATRUETIC (from): Royce, Mills, Powell, Tiler, Kirseila, Robinson, Red-Learn, Newton, Hunt, Brown, K Jones, Lisble, Konchesky, Bright, Parker, Pringle, Men-donca, Mortimer, Barnes, Petterson (gk).

And statistics Record breaking in the making?

MANCHESTER UNITED, single-handedly, are doing what they can to keep scoring levels respectable. No side has bettered the two goals per game average that they themselves managed in 1996-97, although Newcastle made a commendable effort by scoring 82 in 42 games in 1993-94. At current rates, Alex 1993-94. At current rates, Alex Ferguson's side will manage 88 this season if they keep up the good work. Andy Cole's fine run of form has lifted him into the exclusive Premiership 100 Club, where his 101 goals put him level with Liverpool's Robble Fowler, and among the pack chasing Alan Shearer on 148.

With two-thirds of this season gone a number of records look

gone, a number of records look likely to tumble. Support for top flight football is set to climb to new heights – Premiership average gates have improved year on year since 1992-93 and this time they're standing at an average of more than 30,000 people per game, which is 40 per cent higher than during the inaugural season. Top-level attendances are at their highest for more than 25 years, and look likely to be increased further still by fans at Sunderland's Stadium of Light in the new millennium.

While more people are watching however, less goals are being scored overall this season, despite the best efforts of Cole and his team-mates, who have netted eight and six times

In single games in recent weeks. Last weekend Nottingham Forest scored the 600th goal in the Premiership's 243rd game this season but the average goals per game since last August still stands at 2.49 per game.

Everton's difficulties in scoring have been well documented, but they tore up their bore-draw script to put five past Middlesbrough on Wednesday. They had managed just 14 in 24 games before then and had seemed on course to fall below Stoke City's lowest-ever total of 24 in the old First Division in 1984-85.

The unwelcome record of fewest home Premiership goals (15) is held jointly by

Premiership goals (15) is held jointly by Leeds and Forest in 1996-97 and Crystal Palace last season, Palace and Forest were relegated on those statistics but Leeds managed 28 points at home and achieved mid-table with their meagre haul. Everton, with just eight goals from 13 home games, must still find another eight to avoid joining the others as colowest scorers at home, but things look much brighter for the Goodison faithful. Goodison faithful. Everton can take heart that one gong is in the bag - the seven goalless home games played so far this season already beats the six Leeds provided for their season-ticket holders two years ago. That Leeds team - and Sheffield United in 1993-93 - played, home and away, in nine 0-0 draws. Everton have managed eight this season so far, which represents 0-0s in more than 30 per cent of

their matches. Nil-nils overall stand at 14.1 per cent of games this season overall.

Season	Team	Goals scored	Games played	Goals/
1992-937	Blackburn -	-68	42	1.62
1993-94	Newcastle	82	42	1.95
1994-95	Blackburn	80 7	42	1.9
1995-96	Man Utd	73	38	1.92
1996-97	Man Utd	76	38	
1997-98	Man Urd	73	38	1.92
1998-99" -	Man Urd	60	26	2.3
so far				

Current club Alan Shearer Newcastle 148 111 lan Wright West Ham Les Ferdinand Tottenham 110 Andy Cole Man Utd 101 Liverpool Robbic Fowler 101 Southampton Matt Le Tissier "Le Tesler is the only player within 10 goals of the 100 Club.

born: 15 Oct 1971 Clubs: Newcastle /

Pretenders to Alan Shearer's top-flight goals record

Season	Goals	Apps	Goals	Ap
1993-94	12	28	- 34	40
1994-95	25	42	21	36
1995-96	2a	38	41	_34
1996-97	18	32	6	20
1997-98	- 9	∵20 "	16	33
1998-99	9	18	13	22
TOTAL	101	178	101	175
Cole scored appearances Fowler's who	kor Fulham.	Bristol City :	ind Newcasi	ie.
Defences o	on top			
Season	Gr	als"	Goals	per g

born: 9 April 1975 Club: Liverpool

1992-93 1195 2.59 1993-94 2.59 1995-96 2.60 1996-97 1997-98 2.49 945

The 0-0 specialists Team Number of 0-0s

West Ham Aston Villa Chelsea Derby Leeds Tottenham No club has avoided blank results entirely, but Southampton and Notdingham Forest have only been involved in one aplece.

Eventon

Arsenal

Gates on the climb Average Premiership 1992-93 23,040 1993-94 24,271 1994-95 1995-96 27,550 28,434 1995-97 29,190 1997-98

1998-99

Drawing blanks 1992-93 8.2 9.3 1993.94 11 1994-95 1995-96 7.1 10.8 1996-97 8.7 1997-98 so far 14.1 1998-99

Southampton's

of joining the

Shearer

Matt Le Tissier is

just five goals short

Premiership 100 Club,

a small étite led by his

former team-mate Alan

Statistics: Brian Sears/Nick Harris

TOMORROW 4PM Wimbledon v Aston Villa

a dramatic return to action tomorrow. Villa's manager, John Gregory, bad initially planned for Bosnich to return in the Midlands derby with Coventry on 27 February, but now intends to include the Australian in his squad to face the Dons if he passes a late test. "Mark is looking good in training at the moment. Providing he gets the all-clear from tha final check with the specialist, I have told him I want him in the squad for Sunday," Gregory said yesterday.

If he plays, the game will be Bosnich's

first for five months and come after an un-

convincing display by his deputy, Michael

Oakes, in Wednesday's 2-1 home defeat at ing Bosman in the side is a vital factor if the club are to reignite their title challenge. The news was less encouraging regarding the central defender Ugo Ehiogu, who has had an operation to correct a fractured eye socket sustained in a collision with Alan Shearer three weeks ago. Gregory said: "He might come back before the end of the season. But the eyes are very delicate and you have to be careful." Stan Collymore is expected to keep his place on the substitutes' bench while Dioo Dublin will again play through his groin problem.

18 (4) (A) Wimbledon, who will be looking to bounce the hands of Leeds. Gregory believes hav- back from the disappointment of losing out on a Worthington Cup final place to Tottenham in midweek, will be without the suspended John Hartson, Gareth Ainsworth is a long-term absentee with a groin injury but Joe Kinnear has Jon Goodman and Peter Fear back in first-team contention.

WINNELEDON (from) Sulkvan, Heald, Cumningham, Krit-tie, Perry, Blackwell, Thatcher, Jupp. Pearce, C. Hughes, Earle, Euell, M. Hughes, Roberts, Ardley, Fear, Kennedy, Ekolos, Gayte, Goodman, Leaburn, Cort. ASTON VILLA (from): Oakes, Watson, Scimeca, South-gate, Barry, Wright, Merson, Taylor, Hendrie, Joachim, Dublin, Graysen, Thompson, Vassell, Standing, Samuel, Fatfalm

Referee: P Altock.



Leeds United v Everton



LEEDS YOUNG defender Jonathon Woodgate is struggling to be fit after missing the midweek win over Aston Villa with a knew injury. Lee Bowyer, who was also missing at Villa Park with an ankle injury and flut hopes to be back for what would be his 100th appearance in league and cup matches since leaving Charlton in the summer of 1996. Bruno Ribeiro, Slephen McPhail, Alan Maybury and David Batty are all still injured, so Bowyer's return in place of Matthew Jones or Willem Korsten is likely to be the

Everton's confidence will have given a lift by last week's FA Cup victory over Coventry and the 5-0 Premiership thrushing of Middlesbrough on Wednesday. The return to fitness of David Unsworth and the end of Marco Materazzi's suspension meant that veteran defender Dave Watson was on the bouch against Boro and he is likely to be so again, Mitch Ward, Alex Cleland and Slaven Bilic are unavailable with long-term injuries, Everton's last league win at Leeds was a 2-1 victory in September 1951, since when they have played 32 league games at Elland

Road and come away with nothing better than a draw.

LEEDS UNITED (from Martyn, Halle, Wetherall, Radebe, Harle, Hashind, Jones, Bowyer, Hopkin, Korsten, Kewell, Hasselhunk, Smith, Granville, Knarvik, Wignhard, Woodgate, Robinson.

EVERTON (from): Myhre, Dunne, Unsworth, Materazzi, Ball, Bwmby, Grant, Dacourt, Oster, Hutchison, Jeffers, Simonsen, Watson, Bakayoko, Cadamarteri, O'Kane, Welt Referen: D Elleray



Liverpool v **West Ham**



Paul Ince will miss his former club's visit to Anfield through suspension. Also banned is Dominic Matteo, which gives Rigobert Song the chance of his full home debut in defeoce. Patrik Berger is likely to be available after a hamstring injury, which could see him to an attacking midfield trio alongside Jamie Redknapp and Steve McManaman. Liverpool need to close the fivepoint gap between themselves and Aston Villa, with fourth place in the Premiership the only certain Uefa Cup qualification po-sition. Three successive away defeats have not helped their cause, but they have woo their last five home league games. West Ham have a poor record at Anfield, but they beat Liverpool 2-1 at Upton Park earlier in the season.

West Ham's Harry Redknapp faces injury problems. Italian striker Paolo Di Canio is out with a groin strain and Neil Ruddock will miss the return to Liverpool with a calf injury. An outbreak of flu has thrown doubts over the chances of Trevor Sinclair, John Moncur and Samassi Abou. Gavin Holligan, Jimmy Bullard, David Partridge and Michael Carrick have all been included in the squad.

LIVERPOOL (from) James, Heggem, Staunton, Carragner, Song, Bjornebye, Red-knapp, Berger, NidNanaman, Thompson, Owen, Fowler, Redle, Friedet, Harkner, Leonhardsen, Babb. WIEST HAW [Iron]: Histop, Ferdmand, Pearce, Lomas, Swicher, Lampard, Berkovic, Lazards, Berkovic, Kitson, Potts, Foe, Cole, Minto, Forrest, Bullard, Holligan, Par-tridge, Carrick,

ast Liverpool: Ince. Matteo West Ham: Oicks



Middlesbrough v Tottenham



MIDDLESBROUGH FACE continued injury problems as they attempt to bounce back from their 5-0 midweek drubbing at Everton. The defenders Gianluca Festa and Curtis Fleming. midfielder Phil Stamp and strikers Brian Deane and Hamilton Ricard are all out injured and their manager, Bryan Robson, includes the youngsters Robbie Stockdale, Craig Harrison, Mark Summerbell and Andy Campbell in an 18-man squad. Boro have beaten Spurs only once at home in the last five visits by the Londoners, managing a 3-0 win in April 1993. Robson will be desperate for a result to stop Boro's free fall continuing.

Tim Sherwood is likely to make his full Premiership debut for Tottenham. George Graham's £3.8m signing from Blackburn missed the Worthington Cup semi-final win over Wimbledon on Tuesday because he was cup-tied, but is back in the squad for the trip north. Sherwood made an instant impact on his full debut in the FA Cup last weekend at Leeds, giving Spurs the lead in a 1-1 draw: Graham's other recent signing, Mauricio Taricco. was also cup-tied in midweek but is back in a near full-strength squad. Spurs have kept a clean sheet in four of their last five league wins at Boro.

MEDDLESGROUGH (from) Schwarzer, Beresterd, Stockdale, Cooper Vickers, Pul-ister, Gordon, Harrison, Kinder, Maddison, Summerbell, Townsend, Gascoigne, Mus-toe, Moore, Beck, Campbell, Blackmore TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker, Carr, Freund, Calderwood, Nielsen, Fox, Anderson, Ferdinand, Armstrong, Ganola, Vego, Iversen, Twicco, Sherwood, Sinton, Campbell, Young, Baardsen.

Referent R Harris.



Southampton v Newcastle



SOUTHAMPTON MANAGER Dave Jones' plans to unleash Latvia's answer to Michael Owen on the Premiership have been held up because 22-year-old striker Marian Pahars' work permit may take up to three weeks to come through. Pahars scored a hat-trick on his debut in English football last week for Saints' reserves. Mark Hughes starts his fourth suspension of the season, a two-match ban imposed after he collected his 14th booking of the campaign. Defender Francis Benali is in line for a recall after missing the last two months with a broken arm while midfielder Matt Le Tissier could make a surprise return to the squad after three

weeks out with a torn hamstring. Newcastle's midfielder Stephen Glass is out after picking up a knee injury in Wednesday's 4-1 win over Coventry. Rund Gulit otherwise has a virtually full squad from which to choose, although Croatian midfielder Silvio Maric will not figure because his work permit has yet to be issued.

DIS WORK PETRILL HAS YELD OF JASHAGAS.

SOUTHANISTON (from) lones. Dodd. Monkou, Lundekaam, Colleter, O Hughes, Marsden, Oakley, Kachboul, Ostensrad, Beattle, Le Tissier, Hiley, Monk, Benail, Marshall, Bridge, Stensgaard.

NEMICASTLE (from) Gwen, Harper, Charvet, Barton, Howey, Dabizas, Domi, Speed, Solano, Harmann, Brady, Shearer, Ketsbaia, Saha, Hughes, Georgiadis, Pearce. lous: Salmes: M Hughes.



SP()RT

MEET RUGBY'S ROLY POLY P22 • MCALLISTER THE FEARLESS LEADER P30

Five Nations: England's No 10-elect can expect a storming Scottish welcome as he stakes claim for World Cup role

Wilkinson enters the cauldron

if EVERYTHING goes to plan - BY CHRIS HEWETT and in Anglo-Scottish terms things have largely gone to plan for England from the moover for a second-half try in Twickenham'a south-west coricant markers in retaining the time this afternooo. They will establish themselves as oddson favourites to win the 78th and final Five Nations' Championship and, in the process, unveil their outside-half for the real business of this calendar

rugby year, the World Cup. No, we are not talking Mike Catt here, although the Bath midfielder's high-octane versatility will pretty much guarantee him a place in the squad come October. The stand-off under debate - and be is very much a stand-off, regardless of the fact that he sports the No 13 shirt today – is Jonny Wilkinson, and at the risk of piling great steaming dollops of unwanted pressure on the poor petal, he is in the perfect posi-tion to bring all the recent "Stransky for England" buf-

M Dawson

R Cockerill

D Garforth

m

gt

foonery to an early conclusion. Clive Woodward might easily have selected the 19-year-old wunderkind in his optimum role for this game; indeed, were he still locked into the "sweet will lay down two highly signif- bird of youth" mindset that marked his first nine months or so as national coach, he would almost certainly have done so. But Woodward has wised up since he fed Wilkinson to 15 Wallaby-shaped wolves in Brishane last summer.

An outing at inside centre behind a pack well capable of dominating both possession and territory is a far more sympathetic method of introducing a future general to the ranks.

There is nothing new in the kid-glove theory of selection. The Australians did something very similar with the 20-year-old Michael Lynagh hack in the early 1980s; snugly sandwiched between the great Mark Ella and the ever-dependable Andrew Slack, the maestro in waiting was afforded the privilege of learning the interna-tional ropes at his own speed while laying the foundations of

ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

... Northampton 9 G Armstrong Newcastle, cap

4 S Murray

Wasos, capt 6 P Walton Northampton

Leicester 3 P Burnell London Scottish

7 M Leslie... Edinburgh Reivers

Newcastle 13 A Tait.

Hadequins 1 T Smith.

..Leicester

.Lekcester

...Northamoton

leicester 2 G Bulloch

..Bath 12 J Leslie Harlequins 11 K Logan..Bath 10 G Townsend

.Sale 14 C Murray .Edinburgh Reivers

a kicking routine that would establish him as the most prolific points-gatherer in the history of Test rugby. As a centre, Lynagh contributed 44 points to the Wallabies' Grand Slam of Britain and Ireland in 1984. Within a year, he had moved into the green and gold No 10 on a very long lease

Having over-hyped and overfaced Wilkinson last June, Woodward is understandably reluctant to make the same mistake twice. However, he still gets carried away whenever the Boy Wonder subject crops up in conversation.

"Even though he is still a teenager and atarting a Five Nations match for the first time, we believe Jonny can cope with anything Scotland might throw at him," insisted the coach yesterday. "We're sure he can kick goals under pressure and, if the Scots target him to capitalise on his inexperience, we're confident he will cope with the ordeal."

Woodward's breathless enthusiasm was echoed by Jeremy Guscott, no less: "Jonny is a natural organiser; he's been telling us what to do all week," he said. Wilkinson was wearing short trousers to school and scurrying around the mini-rughy fields of his native south coast on a diet of orange squash and peanut hutter sandwiches when the Bath legend made his first full Five Nations appearance for England, but there is no suggestion of any guv'norapprentice arrangement. Guscott knows a good 'un when he

Much of the fascination of this afternoon's contest surrounds the rival midfields, especially now that Gregor Townsend is back in his rightful outside half position to load the bullets and create the space for John Leslie to wreak his Otago-style havoc. In fact, Leslie represents a substantial



The England coach, Clive Woodward (wearing cap), gives a tactical briefing before today's big game at Twickenham

his performance against thing to go by, he has lost from Jason Leonard in the none of his potency.

islander was good enough to Scotsmen on the field as the tour of South Africa, be made have great respect for the needs no reminding that Eng- for everything.

impale Gavin Hastiogs' Lions single tracksuited Borderer it his husiness to work his way on the rough end of the pineapple hack in 1993 and if the touchlines. Jim Telfer two-thirds of this English team on getting the basics abknows more about this sea- and, like the proverbial ele-Wales a fortnight ago was any- son's bouquet of red roses, phant, he forgets nothing. front row to Nick Beal at full- me about the threat he poses," threat to Wilkinson's equilib- For all that, England are not back, than they know about Lawrence Dallaglio, the Eng- all over it."

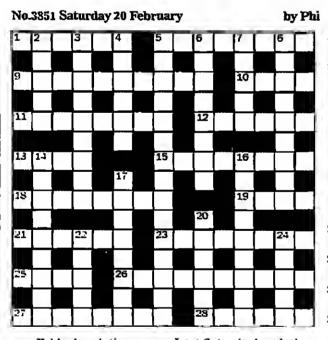
But England will have the ball rium: the New Zealand south so much worried about the 15 themselves; on the 1997 Lions' lish captain, said this week. "I By the same yardstick Telfer and, at this level, the ball counts

"You don't have to remind

on getting the basics ab-solutely right and he demands intensity from his players. That victory over Wales a fortnight ago had Telfer stamped

land hold all the aces, particularly in the first phase areas of scrum and line-out. The Scots will play a quick game this afternoon; they will ruck like wild things and crawl over their white-shirted foe like a rash. But England will have the ball

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

HITFIT AVERSITON
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SAUGHT TO WITHOUT THE first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday Receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.
Ariswers and winners' names will be published next. Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I.A. CESS HOUSEFLY
CAMADA Square, Canary Wharf, London E145BL. Please week's winners' M Holgate. Sevenoaks; A McArthur, Fleet; A Maguire, Monkstown;
J Sheppard, Sutton; P. Roots, Tumbridge Wells.

loyds 158 % a truming name or Novuls Bank 2% and 189 Bank pic

ACROSS

1 and 5 Friendly aspects of church helping the

of courter nearing the poor? (6,8)

9 Played a part - so need part to play? (10)

10 Wings of petrel forming outer covering (4) 11 and 12 It's what one stands for in the

13 Turkish commander trapping bing in Indian town (4)

poetry (8) Officially noted as working with tape (2,6)
Last of players remains in
the band (4)

21 and 23 Handsome hero preparing to box rough-looking chancer (6,8) Something offensive to the eve will be long out of fashion (4)

Rat microbe is destroyed as a result of some pressure (10) 27 and 28 Bare sculptress should be bundled in floor

covering (8.6)

DOWN

2 Vocal music - nothing given to piano over a long period (5)

This month I, in front of spectators, kick off (9) Heather has taken in fashionable feature of winter coat (6)

5 Get back to sort out historic sports statistics? (6.3.6) 6 Embarrassed about theologian hanging round sleazy cafe (3-5)

One's head taking in parking information (5)
Teams taking on leaders in European soccer break for refreshment (9) 14 A source of power infor-mation and inspiration used by King (9) 16 The writer getting into abuse of steroid

equipment in medical
cabinet? (9)

17 Extract of foxglove a
blessing? It's easy to get
hooked on (8)

20 Surface of road

where river creature turns up (6)

22 Requirements observed to rise, after daughter's

ettled in (5) 24 Racket from hooter enFA to cast a wider net

WHEN THE Kevin Keegan era is done and dusted, the Football Association will not shrink from treading foreign shores to find his successor as England coach.

Senior sources at the FA gave strong indications yesterday that even if the best man for the job is not English, be will still receive serious consideration. Of course, the men currently in charge at Lancaster Gate still hope to persuade Keegan to

The FA's acting chief executive, David Davies, not surprisingly found himself still defending the decision to employ Keegan as a stop-gap.

"In the circumstances, we had to give the players the best chance of qualifying for the Euro 2000 finals," he said, "We also believe that, come the end

BY CHRIS MAUME

of the season, the choice in terms of who to go for may be significantly wider than it is at this particular moment."

The obvious implication of that statement is that individuals have already been targeted but are under contract with assorted clubs. Bryan Robson asked Keegan

esterday to come and watch Paul Gascoigne. Keegan's announcement that Gazza could be welcomed back into the England fold during his reign was greeted favourably on Teesside.

"Obviously, that's a boost for Gazza," Robson said. "I think he's been playing well of late, and it's up to Gazza to keep play-

think he's coming on quite strongly with his fitness and with his game, so I'd to recommend Kevin that he should have a look

Wales manager was even shorter than Keegan's is likely to be in the England set-up, thinks Keegan will have a smoother ride during his four games in charge than Toshack did in his

Keegan's former Liverpool team-mate resigned after just one match in charge - a 3-1 home defeat by Norway - following a row with the Football Association of Wales.

"They had decided they were going to get rid of Terry Yorath bet against him."

ing well - and then it's up to and they wanted me to replace Kevin Keegan. Gazza's had a him." Toshack said. "But my sitreasonable season for us and I uation was a different kettle of fish to Kevin's. For a start I was in San Sebastien coaching Real Sociedad, so I was working a

long way away from my players.
"I decided to give it a go for John Toshack, whose reign as a period of time until they sorted somebody out, but once I saw the house from the inside I realised it was not particularly.

"With Kevin we're only talking about three months and four games, that's all. I don't think trying to do both jobs will affect him and he will probably bounce one off the other. He's more or less dictated what he wants from the FA and that a the kind of lad he is. Whatever he puts his mind to, you would not-

IN MONDAY'S 12-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

'With Battersea the next stop, Britain's No 2 knows he has to be back to his best' JOHN ROBERTS ON GREG RUSEDSKI

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13 for Model Cab of

FEATURES, PAGE 9



MY DESPAIR, **BY LEWIS** WOLPERT

BOOK5, PAGE 14





THETRAVEL

Flirting with the enemy



When is it acceptable to take tea with a 'war criminal'? Newly uncovered secret documents reveal that in 1949 the British

government was prepared to break any moral barrier to save its retreating army in Palestine. Here was a ghostly prelude to 50 years of Arab/Israeli conflict...

fter the Second World War, "hell-disaster". Churchill called it. Menachem Begin's Irgun had blown up Britisb beadquarters at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, the British were executing Jewish "terrorists", and the Jews had hanged two kidnapped British Army sergeants. The Arabs were determined to destroy the future Jewish state of Israel. The old imperial mandate was in a state of incipient civil war. You have only to open Colonial Office file 537/2643 to understand why, in their moment of agony, the British toyed with the idea of negotiating with an Arab cleric whom

they had, only two years earlier, tried to extradite Indeed, in 1941 Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, had been chatting to Hitler in Berlin, urging the Reich to prevent the departure of European Jews to Palestine; and two years later he had been beloing to raise a Muslim SS battalion in Sarajevo to fight on the Russian front. Later on, claiming ignorance of the Jewish Holocaust, be told the German foreign minister Ribbentrop in 1944 that if Jews were to be "removed" from Germany, "it would be infinitely preferable to send them to other countries where they would find themselves under active control [sic], as for example, Poland..."

When he attempted to flee Germany in 1945, the French captured the Grand Multi, but allowed him to escape to Egypt. In 1947 he turned up in Lebanon as leader of the Palestinian Arabs, a powerful and

No wonder, then, that the old Colonial Office file was not released under the usual 30-year rule, but kept secret for half a century. Its contents - astonishingly, they were overlooked by historians on their release last month - speak not only of hidden contacts between the Grand Mufti and British diplomats in Cairo, but also of imperial despair in Palestine and, most dramatically of outrage at Jewish "reprisals" against Arab civilians which constituted, according to the British High Commissioner, "an offence to civilisation". Indig-nation and fury permeate the file. So does defeat. On 15 December 1947, Lieutenant General Sir Alan Cunningham sent a top secret memorandum

BY ROBERT FISK

to the British colonial secretary Arthur Creech-Jones, outlining the civil war in Palestine in fearful detail "Situation now is deteriorating," be wrote, "into a series of reprisals and counterreprisals between Jews and Arabs, in which many innocent lives are being lost, the tempo of which may accelerate... I have been considering what steps could be taken to mitigate this dangerous situation. As far as the Arabs are concerned it is undoubtedly a fact that word from the Musti in the right quarter is probably now the only chance of inducing them to bold their hand until we have gone."

Haj Amin had arrived in newly independent Lebanon in early October 1947, and the British Lega-

Arab uprising against Britain in its last days of much freedom he would be given. The Grand Mufti's rule in Palestine.

much freedom he would be given. The Grand Mufti's sudden appearance, the legation noted, had not sursudden appearance, the legation noted, had not surprised the Lebanese prime minister, Riad Solh, but the Lebanese insisted that "a member of the Surete" was in constant attendance on Haj Amin, that his activities would be "controlled and restricted" by the Lebanese and that he "would not be allowed to indulge in any activities directed against British interests". As our diplomats in Beirut were well aware, however, the British Middle East Office in Cairo had already made contact with the man whom Britain and the Allied Forces Command in Europe regarded as a war criminal.

On 29 September, our man in Cairo bad sent a secret note to the Foreign Office enclosing the re-port of an interview with the Mufti from "an unimpeachable source". The carefully typed notes presumably from a British intelligence officer - portray a man who realised that disaster faced the Arabs of Palestine. The Mufti refused to contemplate the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. "He was not bargaining with the Zionists about a possession in dispute," says the report. "Palestine, including Jaffa and the Negev, belonged to the Arabs, and he did not recognise the right of anyone to 'offer' them what was theirs as a condition of consent to partition. It was like a robber trying to make conditions on which be would return stolen property." Besides, Haj Amin said, "no form of partition... would finally satisfy the Zionists. Whatever they got would merely be a springboard from which to leap on more."

have taken the Briton's breath away. "Put your selves in the Arahs' place," Haj Amin advised. "Remember vourselves in 1940. of Jerusalem Did you ever think of offering the Germans part of Britain on condition

Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti

that they let you alone in the rest." Of course not, and you never would." The answer to partition or a federal Palestine was "NO, categorically NO." Jews would have the same rights as Arabs in a Palestinian nation "but the Arabs would never agree to any bestowal on the Zionists of political power or privilege that put them above... the Palestinian state

There was no reason why Arabs and the British should not co-operate, Haj Amin said. But common interests "should not deceive the British into thinking that any Arab leader would weaken where Palestine was concerned... Palestinian Arab enmity towards the British was purely political - they hated the policy that had founded... the Zionist national bome." If Britain did not support Zionist claims to Palestine, and rejected partition. "she would gain Arab friendship in a moment". But if the British continued their support, "they could never hope for Arab co-operation, for the Arabs would then be co-operating in hringing about their own destruction".

resonance, the Grand Mufti talked of the future. "He did not fear the Jews, their Stern, Irgun, Haganah [gangs]. The Arabs might lose at first, they would have many losses, but in the end they must win." The Zionists "will eventually crumble into nothing. and he did not fear the result, unless of course Britain or America... intervened, and even then the Arabs would fight and the Arab world would be perpetually hostile."

When his British visitor suggested that the Arabs might do better to accept part of Palestine rather than risk losing all, Haj Amin replied: "Who are we? A handful of exiles. Nothing. But we shall never give in or surrender our principles no matter what bribe is offered."

Should the British talk directly to Haj Amin? As fighting continued in Palestine, the British Legation in Beirut reported to the Foreign Office on 27 November that Haj Amin "no longer regards us as Arab Public Enemy No 1". But "if a decision unfavourable to the Arabs is reached at the United Nations... it is probable that the ex-Multi [sic] will be exposed to pressure from his extremist followers...

influential voice that could pacify - or provoke - an	non in Beirut immediately s	et out to discover now	subsequently sought re-	ruge in trad after a pro-	rien, in words wi	uch have an irome historical		Continued on page
INSIDE Leaders and Features	2 ad comment 3-7 8-9	Obituaries Arts Week in Revie	10-11 12 w 13	Books Country & Gard Travel		Miscellany Radio Today's TV	29 31 32	TRAVEL



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Why we walk on by

Sir. I could not help having a wry smile when I read of the Home Secretary calling on the public to intervene when they encounter juvenile law-breakers ("Straw condemns 'walk on by' society". 18 February).

The main disincentive for this action is the attitude of parents, the police and Crown Prosecution Service in the event that the children respond with violence, or, even worse, make false accusations of inappropriate behaviour against you. It is also not uncommon for good citizens to be assaulted by the parents of young vandals should they have the temerity to point out their behaviour

I would not consider taking action unless there were a host of reliable witnesses about, and I felt I could safely defend myself should the need arise. D M WILLIAMS Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Sir-Congratulations to our Home Secretary. We must each he ready to try and stop unruly behaviour. But what he advocates will not come about until there is an end to that foolish parrot-cry of "Do not take the law into your own hands." He is asking us to do just that instead of standing by and waiting for a

It is necessary for Parliament and the courts to give effect to his assertion that we should each act to maintain public order. The policeman who was prosecuted and fined for walloping a youth should have been thanked instead. Teachers are afraid to try and discipline their pupils for fear that, if they touch a pupil, they will be charged with assault.

It is old-fashioned to say it, but what is needed is the teaching of discipline, that is to say, self-discipline, and concern for the well-being of other people, at an early age. Because lack of courtesy, and of concern for other people, has become so widespread, the ordinary citizen is afraid to do the kind of thing to which Jack Straw referred. Nevertheless, we should salute him. act as he says, and hope that be may have started a turn in the tide. S GRATWICK QC Sevenoaks, Kent

Baby 'experiments'

Sir. The headline on your report on the use of a new type of ventilator for premature babies tells us that "28 babies die in hospital experiment" (18 February).

Last month I returned from several years in Tanzania as a volunteer teacher in a technical school and in a university medical school. We designed and built a lowcost, low-tech incubator for premature babies. In Tanzania, the

cost of commercial incubators puts them out of reach for most hospitals. One of our principal aims was to design something which looked as nearly as possible like a cot and not like piece of technology.

Paediatricians know that the death rate amongst prematures under 1kg birthweight is very high, perhaps 90 per cent in village conditions. An incubator might save half of these deaths. However, the mothers do not distinguish full-term babies from prematures; they are all just babies. Some of these will die, but not half of them. If you have a (premature) baby in hospital and they put it in an incubator, it is much more likely to die than the average baby. Conclusion; incubators cook babies;

don't let them out your baby into one. One can understand a woman from a village in one of the world's poorest countries confusing elementary statistical points; hut one does expect the sort of person who wrote your headline to know better - particularly as it is pointed out that the death rate for babies

kept in the new ventilator was not different from that of other babies. Our "Moshi hotcot" was a great success and is in use in other hospitals. There are many children alive now because of it. We did a lot of laboratory development work, but there was bound to come a time

Modified famine

Sir: I am at a loss to fathom what need mankind has of genetically modified foods.

Women in the Ring No 6: Linda van den Berg is the proud winner of her fight against Sonia Daily at the

We are repeatedly told by biotechnology companies and not a few politicians that genetically modified foods are the solution to the developing world's ills. In the West we produce more food than we know what to do with. In the developing world people starve for a variety of reasons, few having anything to do with the inability of their lands to produce the food they need to sustain them. Genetically modified foods will do little to help the starving in Africa, but stable government and an end to internecine slaughter will cure many

Even supposing peace and stability could be hrought to the worst famine-afflicted regions, are we to believe that this wonder technology is to be given away at a price which the poorer nations could

sustainably afford to pay? The case in favour of genetically modified foods has nothing to do with any benefit that mankind may derive therefrom and everything to do with control and money. Biotechnology companies are currently engaged in a race to acquire control over the methods of, and money spent on, food production. No doubt the financial means will be found to foist this technology on to an unsuspecting developing world and thus increase the dependency of the developing world on the West, far

from helping the poorer nations to feed themselves. It is at best a foolbardy exercise and at worst, the most cynical

example of the exploitation of the developing world we have yet seen. SIMON TUDOR-PRICE London SW15

Sir. At least we now know the next stage in the Blairite project: New Labour, New Food.
JOHN GILLIBRAND
Menai Bridge, Anglesey

Gesture for peace

Sir: Maybe the best way to solve the logiam over IRA decommissioning is for Britain to take its natural place on the highest moral ground.

The IRA refuses to hand in weapons because they see this as surrender and humiliation. But what but such confusion would you expect from them? The IRA are only terrorists: I know this because I read it in the British press. The people who hrought you Bloody Sunday, by contrast, are Security Forces.

Since the latter are so much more henourable than the IRA, let them lead the way on surrendering weapons too (just on a token, symbolic basis, of course). After all, Tony Blair told the IRA that their decommissioning would be not surrender, but a declaration of the victory of peace. THOMAS HUTCHISON McFADDEN Pembroke College,

Feeble Euro-Tories

Sir: It was good to see the pro-euro Tories pleading for the Government to come off the fence on their plan for joining the single currency ("Brown will issue advice to business on trading in euro", 19 February). However, their assertion that they

cannot crusade for early membership until the Prime Minister gives the official lead we all crave is astonishingly feeble. It underlines the sad reality that the pro-euro Tories are essentially too weak to do other than extensive silent handwringing. They have no clout left at all. The courageous demarche of the Donnelly-Stevens dissident Tory group is in impressive contrast.

The feebleness in official circles

and amongst the Tory europhiles is sadly mirrored in the total deafening silence of the European Movement. This is supposed to be a crusading organisation pressing hard for euro membership for the UK. In equally sad reality, it has now effectively become an arm of the same government and its hesitations.

Until Labour gives a decisive lead, industry lacks the legal authority to persuade shareholders and others to support significant spending on essential technical preparations. The Chancellor needs to find the necessary political courage, without

The referendum must surely be held before the next election. HUGH DYKES London W1

Mummy in garden

Sir: You should have done your spadework before publishing your story "Egyptian mummy found buried in garden" (15 February). My father did die a year after bringing back the mummy's remains from Egypt - but there was no curse and no one in my family ever suggested that there had been. John Wilhelm Rowntree, who was not an "explorer" but a Quaker historian, had been in bad health long before he ever came into contact with the murnmy.

The artefact was not displayed in the library, as you report, but in a coach bouse some way from the main building. Nor was it "hastily buried" by "grieving relatives". It was disposed of more than 20 years after my father's death because it had begun to decompose. JEAN ROWNTREE Stone-in-Oxney, Kent

IN BRIEF

Sir: Michael T Phillips (letter, 18 February) must be very unlucky with his torn copies of The Independent. although he does have a point. Does "bigger and better" really mean that, or are we readers of the broadsbeets and quality Sundays merely keeping the paper recyclers in business? However, I think that I must be very lucky indeed, for Richard, my paperboy will, in all weathers, carefully disassemble the various sections and feed them individually through the letterbox precisely in order to prevent my receiving a torn newspaper. J J S GOSS

Section .

S. garage

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Bletchley, Buckinghamshire Sir: The Rev Peter Mullen (Religious Notes, 16 February) says the

overwhelming argument for establishment of the Church of England is that "all inhabit the same plot ... this realm ... this common language and shared history .: the need to remain religious in the English mode". That is in fact a definition of a localised sect, not a great world religion. It is nationalism. parochialism and cultural domination - called "comprehensiveness".
Dom ALBERIC STACPOOLE Ampleforth Abbey, York

Sir: Adam LeBor, in his poignant article on the visit of the judge and jury to Domachevo (17 February). made one important error. The Jews did not die for their religion; they died because they were born Jews. Giving up their religion would not have saved them. BERNARD FOX Hove, East Sussex

Flirting with the enemy

Fitzroy Lodge, Lamheth, south London

when the device would be used for

the first time on real babies. If you

What else could be done? Were we

Sir: The questions that need to be

Did those planning the study

reasonably believe that the experimental treatment was at least

Was consent obtained from the

Was that consent truly informed

Did those babies who received the

experimental treatment do worse

conventional therapy?

If so, was it possible to discern the

outcome of the study before the

study was completed so that if

necessary it could he terminated

early?

If these questions cannot be properly answered then those responsible for the study deserve to be pilloried. Until that time, perhaps

The Independent should devote itself to finding out the facts rather

profession. We are not the only trade

than stigmatising an entire

Dr DAVID THOMAS

which needs to avoid the sin of

asked about the North Staffordshire

unethical? I thought we were trying

like, we experimented on them.

to help. J CARR

parents?

consent?

Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

study are very simple:

as good as or better than

conventional treatment?

than those who received

Continued from page one Contact even of a most informal sort with British officials might serve as a safety valve." The British memorandum, marked "dubious past renders the prospect of even could not be denied "that he enjoys very considerable prestige and influence and he may still play a part in the future govern-ment of Palestine". The Mufti had "learnt a lesson through backing the wrong side in the last war", and "advantage might be taken of his anti-Communist leanings".

British diplomat called Evans, over cups of tea - Evans had been "non-committal" to the idea - but "I think it would be all to "Secret", adds that although Haj Amin's the good for a member of my staff to see him occasionally," the Legation head unofficial contact with him distasteful", it wrote. It would now pay the British "hand Meeting the Mufti as "an individual" would not mean "that His Majesty's Government had abandoned their principles or con-doned the Mufti's misguided [sic] past... if... he has had a change of heart, mild and Riad Solh, the Lebanese prime minis-

ing between the Mufti and a Beirut-based and is still the same we shall soon find the of their actions which can only end in fuspots under his henna."

arrogance.

Cardiff

Beneath this eloquent letter, the British damning remark that the US assistant military attaché in Lebanon had already paid a visit to the Mufti. By mid-December, Genget him to dissuade local Arabs from fur-ther violence... while we are still here. But, the High Commissioner noted, "it is clear that we cannot approach the Arabs with-

ture bitterness which may well in the end mean disaster for their new State." Jewdiplomat had added in his own hand the ish claims that their actions were carried out by "dissident groups" had proved to be untrue and "it can be seen that the Jews have inflicted many more casualties on the over fist" to exert any influence to avoid a wholesaie clash with Palestinian Arabs.

Jerusalem for pressure on Haj Amin "to ish] attacks have been against buses or in ish) attacks have been against buses or in

And, in a remarkable moment of anger, Cunningham concluded that "we have never at any time on the slightest excuse out taking parallel action against the escaped vociferous and hysterical accuter, had already offered to arrange a meet- give him a chance to prove it. If the leop- to point out to Jews the unmittigated folly were prone to brutal reprisals. Now they fied or were expelled from their homes. The Yasser Arafat.

crossed the mind of any soldier here, and which are an offence to civilisation."

Cunningham's plea for discussions with the Mufti was forwarded to the Foreign Office. Within days, however, the Legation in Beirut was ordered to make no contact with Haj Amin. British MPs had long demanded his trial for war crimes and our ally King Abdullah of Jordan - the late King Hussein's grandfather - hated the Mufti. The British departed from Palestine in disgrace, leaving Arab and Jew to fight for the land. discreet contacts with the British might Jews. We are, of course, doing all we can sations by Jews that we were a people who Three-quarters of a million Palestinians

[the Jews] have themselves come out with Arabs did not eventually win, as Haj Amin reprisals of a kind which would not have had predicted, and the 51-year old Israeli state did not end in disaster as Cunningham had suggested it might. Israeli spokesmen regularly condemn the Mufti for his flirtation with Nazism, and have sought to demonise the Palestinians with his name. But recent research suggests that he was an Arab nationalist rather than a national socialist - his fairest biographer is a former Israeli military governor of the occupied West Bank

The Mufti died in Beirut in 1974, ignored and largely forgotten even in Lebanon. Among the mourners at his funeral was

ALL WHITTYD RIVING

Mainimy in garden

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For food to be 'safe', our countryside must be protected

HERE IS an intriguing exercise in comparative contemporary history. Rewind the video of British politics back not quite two years, to 6 March 1997. A report into hygiene in abattoirs had found serious risks of the spread of E coli bacteria, but it was not shown to ministers and its recommendations were not acted on. The leader of the opposition was incredulous. Tony Blair demanded to know: "When will someone in the government take responsibility for the proper and competent administration of our affairs?

Now that the boot is on the other foot, how does it fit? It is now two-and-a-half weeks since the Leader of the Opposition caught Mr Blair unawares at Prime Minister's Questions on an issue of food safety. Since then, the "hoo-ha" has inflated into a fully fledged food scare, culminating this past week in a series of frontpage frighteners in other newspapers. Two years ago, ministerial reassurances failed to reassure, and opposition demands for ministerial resignations were brushed aside. The same is true today.

However, there are important differences. E coli 0157 has killed many people, and poses a far more potent and immediate threat to consumers than genetically modified food. And the Government's response has in fact been different. True, there have been uncomfortable echoes of John Major's tetchiness in Mr Blair's tone, and Jack Cunningham has been hopeless. But Jeff Rooker, the deputy Agriculture Minister, has explained how he is tightening up the labelling of GM food and what he is doing about GM crops in his matterof-fact Birmingham accent, and with the confidence that transparently comes from knowing what he is talking about.

The truth is that there is a lot more to worry about in our food than genetically modified ingredients. GM soya, tomatoes and maize cause no direct harm - the risk is only that some unintended consequence of altering plant genes may damage human health in some unforeseeable way at some time in the future. Meanwhile there are direct and real risks of death from E coli, salmonella, listeria and aflatoxins. Then there are potential risks that ought to be more worrying than messing about with DNA, such as the use of chemicals on crops and antibiotics on animals and farmed fish. Some of these risks are increased by intensive farming methods, others by poor hygiene in food production or preparation. All of them require rigorous government supervision and control.

So Mr Blair should be applanded for preparing to set up the Food Standards Agency. In all the fuss over the mad scheme to fund it by charging a flat-rate tax on supermarkets and sandwich kiosks alike - which the Prime Minister has already suggested will be changed - the central point has been lost. Which is that the agency will be answerable to the Department of Health rather than the Ministry of Agriculture. This is vital, because the aspect of the GM foods saga that inspires least confidence is the conduct of big companies, primarily Monsanto, whose profits depend on further intensifying and industrialising farming.

Our colleagues on other newspapers have this issue completely wrong. What should alarm us is not GM food, but crops that have been genetically modified to



make them resistant to Monsanto's weedkillers and pesticides. Whole prairies in the US have been turned into "green concrete", in which GM soya or maize grows - and nothing else. No weeds, no wild flowers, no wildlife. This does not bother Americans, who live in a big country, with wilderness areas larger than the United Kingdom. But two-thirds of Britain is cultivated, and skylarks, corn buntings and many small furry

mammals have nowhere else to live but farmland. Oddly enough, on the same day two years ago that Mr Blair was demanding ministerial accountability for safe meat, his colleague Tony Banks, now a minister, accused the Tories of being "prepared to let people be poisoned by rotten stinking food when they could have healthy organic food".

It was rhetorical overkill, of course, but neither this government nor the last is doing enough to encourage less intensive agriculture.

Meanwhile, demand for organic food is rising so fast that much of it has to be supplied from abroad. A Food Standards Agency accountable to the Health Denartment is not enough. We need a powerful Green Ministry to protect the diverse wildlife of our countryside, too.

Mr Blair is the real Bennite now

READERS OLD enough to remember the cruzy years when Tony Benn nearly gained control of the Labour Party will recall the melhods his supporters used.

They fixed constituency delegations and trade union block votes in deliance of the wishes of the "rank and file" members in whose name their revolution was being

One reader who is old enough to remember this is Tony Blair, who helped persuade John Smill to transform Labour's internal democracy in 1983, abolishing trade union block votes in the selection of parliament ary candidates and the election of the party leader. Another year on. Mr Blair was himself elected leader under this new franchise. More than three-quarters of a million trade union members, who paid their few pency to the Labour Party on top of their union dues, voted as individuals in a national ballol, and helped choose their future prime minister.

But now he has betrayed that legacy Today the Labour Party in Wales votes to choose its leader and likely first minister of the Welsh Assembly Superlically. the system looks the same as that under which Mr Blair was elected. The votes are divided in equal thirds between MPs (and Welsh Assembly candidales), party members and Labour supporting trade unionists. But trade union leaders have been allowed to east block votes on behalf of their unions, and to decide fur themselves how to do so.

Yesterday, the GMB general union announced the result of a "branch consultation ballut" in favour of Alun Michael, the establishment candidate, against Rhodri Morgan, the troublemaker. We are back in the wurst dark days of Bennism, only this time Mr Blair and the GMB are the Bennites.

The GMB bosses "consulted" their hranches and then added up the membership of each branch to produce figures for their spurious "ballot". In every sccret vote that has been held in Wales, whether of Labour members or of trade unionists, Mr Morgan has beaten Mr Michael bands down.

This may not reflect fairly the merits of the two candidates: Mr Morgan is a disorganised joker, while Mr Michael is dull but efficient. But it fairly reflects the resentment that Labour members and supporters feel at Mr Blair's attempt to fix the outcome of a decision they thought had been devolved to them. What is the point of handing power from Westminster to Cardiff if the Labour Party is going to act as though the UK is a one-party state? "If we can't actually trust Labour Party members with decision-making within the Labour Party, how on earth are we going to go out and try to win support for the Labour Party in the broader community?" As one Mr Blair said in 1992.

Of course, that same Mr Blair learnt another lesson from Labour's civil war in the early Eighties: that a democratic party that is serious about winning must be united. But, as he argued, that unity cannot be fixed or imposed by bureaucratic means. He has to win the argument in his own party that Mr Morgan would be an electoral liability - or, for that matter, that Ken Livingstone would use the mayoralty of London as a power hase from which to undermine the Labour Government. That he has not even attempted to make either case suggests that neither is true, and that the attempt to block Mr Morgan and Mr Livingstone will in the end be a much greater liability for the party.

The backward glance when you're packed and ready to go

IT ONLY really begins to kick in dur- heart and above them a crown. Love, ing the last three days. It may be a honour and friendship is the gener-trip you have known about for weeks al idea. I never travel without it. but because thinking about it involves all kinds of unpleasant possibilities, you tend to push reality away. And further evasinn impossible. The phone calls from the office multiply. Queries about air tickets, money and tips, and advice from others who have travelled the route before you. There are crackly phooe calls from fixers with exotic names in faraway places promising to meet you at the airport or haggling over their daily rate. It could be a mere Amir in Afghanistan, Kumiai in Colombo, V in Johannesburg, or a hundred other names familiar to the people of ness of mortality. Suddenly death is

I love travel but I hate the leaving; the sense of instability and insecurity it creates in the atmosphere. That is why I try to pack my bag when there all smash through the illusion of is nobody else in the house, always at the last minute. And once packed I try to hide it away. Who am I fooling? Of course my loved ones know I am going but somehow I feel that ing when everybody is asleep. No bag sitting in the hall way is too empty

a sight for all of us. There was a time when I derided those of my colleagues who were superstitious. Martin Bell's white suit in the street outside. But on this latwas not for me. Too theatrical by half, I thought. But something has been happening because these days I too carry charms. There is a Khmer staff I picked up in Cambodia; a small wooden icon of the Madonna and Child; and my beloved Claddagh ring. The Claddagh is a gold ring with two hands intertwined around a

Why the superstitinn after all those years of sneering disbelief? I you tend to push reality away. And think it has something to do with age. I am lurching towards the big 40 and I am looking forward to my 70th birthday. Anything I can possibly do to ward off bad luck, I will do. When I am heading off to one of the world's bad lands, I do my best to avoid thinking about the possible dangers. I assess the risks as best as possible, and with that done, I try to push the darker thoughts to one side.

When colleagues of your own generation have died in war zones, there is naturally a much greater awareno longer only something that happens to the people you are reporting on: the high-velocity round; the shell fragment, the machete blow - they invulnerability. Brief yourself well but do not dwell on the fearful possibili-

ties. That way madness lies. I like to leave early in the morntime then for sad goodbyes. I move around the silent house gathering my hits and pieces, gulp down a black coffee and wait for the growl of the taxi est trip to Africa it didn't quite work out like that. I was shaving in the hathroom when I heard a knock on the door I opened it and saw my three-year-old son standing their

sleepv-eved "My name is Daniel Patrick Alexander," he said, as if answering the question of an invisible stranger.



FERGAL KEANE

I put my son to bed and waited outside for the car. I needed to be moving; to get a grip on my emotion

The poor child was half asleep. Something had woken him. A dream perhaps, or was it my presence moving around the house?

I picked him up and he fell asleeo again within seconds. Feeling him close to me, sleepy and warm, I wanted to pick up the telephone and cancel the trip. But I couldn't and so I carried him to our bedroom and settled him in beside his mother. And then I crept out and down the stairs onto the street. I needed the car to come; I needed to be moving; I need-

ed to get a grip on my emotion. And so I left for another early morning rendezvous at the airport. Oh Heathrow, Oh Heathrow - that forlorn temple of the foreign correspondent. The sight of my travelling colleagues Kevin and Nigel greatly cheered me up. In this business, you

with as much care as possible. If you are going to dangerous or unstable places, you need people whn don't panic, who are not gung-hn merchants, and who have a strong sense of humour. Kevin and Nigel are too such gents specialists in the black humour of the road.

There is one vital ritual to complete before leaving Heathrow: the purchase of whisky and cigarettes. These are not for our nwn consumption - honestly - but our gifts for potentially useful and co-operative people at the other end. Believe me, many an army colonel has been charmed by the introduction of a bottle of Johnny Walker into the conversation. The cigarette has been the passport to co-operation at many a dodgy road block.

First the handshake (never let go of a man's hand in such a situation - he is much less likely to hlow you away if he can feel your hand in his) and then the offer of a smoke. For the really uncooperative road block, I offer a packet of cigarettes; for the psychotic, a whole cartoo. The whisky, of course, must never ever be produced at a road block. The men blocking your way may already be drunk. The last thing they need is fire water that will rev them up even more.

The road can be a very lonely place. Where there are telephones it is possible to mitigate the loneliness. Nothing is sweeter than the voice of a loved one over the distant miles. You long to hear the mos banal of domestic detail. What is the latest on the tiling job in the kitchen?

tend to choose your fellow travellers Has the boy's cold gone yet? After what can sametimes be days of horror and fear, you live for the soft, reassuring voice of the normal. At night, when the beers come nut and we are all congregated in someone's hotel room (it is the luckless Kevin, the youngest of us on this trip), we start out with other stories

of places we have been. There is almost an element of besting one another: "You think that was bad. Wait until I tell you about Kisangani." But sooner or later we end up talking about home and those we miss. Kevin is talking about football a lot on this trip, but then he always does. He is a Queens Park Rangers fan, a devoted one despite some cruel mockery from the rest of us. Kevin's great strength is his calm. I have yet to see him lose his temper, which travelling in Africa is some testament to his forbearance. Big Nigel is a prince of the road: the man who for several years in Bosnia was cameraman to Martin Bell. You feel safe around big Nigel. He has a

lucky aura. We have a lot of work to do here. Long days among some very strange people. But home is just a week away. And on the road that is what you live for: homecoming. It is that indescribable feeling when the taxi slows to a halt outside your front door and your child's face appears at the window, laughing. And then you promise yourself you will not go to such places again. And this time you really

Fergal Keane is a BBC News Special

¥THE INDEPENDENT Photograph



Bahy Elephant by Philip Meech Ref. 00102

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Ocalan's arrest • Genetically modified food • Kevin Keegan's part-time job • Hillary Clinton's ambitions • Jack Straw has a go

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

Comment on public anxiety about the safety of genetically altered food

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

THE GOVERNMENT deserves to be supported against those who scream for new bans and moratoriums. But it would be quite wrong to suggest that nothing serious is at stake here. Ignorant as most of us may be about the science involved, we are surely right to sense that the growing possibilities of breaching the species barrier are threatening to our sense of the order of being and our human place in it. We need guidance across this new territory, and we are uncomfortably aware that we are not getting it.

THE TIMES

MANY CONSUMERS are under the impression that "Frankenstein foods" have yet to escape from the laboratory, even though 60 per cent of processed foods contain genetically modified soya. Giving shoppers more information about what food contains is the surest way to allay their fears. Genetic engineering is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by soundbite assurances or allegations. If Mr Hague confroots consumers' fears in an adult manner, reaffirming his belief that in-formed individuals should make their own decisions about what they eat, he will win plaudits. If not, he will find that food scares are creating a Frankenstein's monster which he cannot control.

THE BIRMINGHAM POST

Ooce again, the vested interests of corporations, governments - and sheer greed - have introduced another poteotial for disaster into the human diet: a cocktail swimming in artificial substances, food which is irradiated, treated, modified and mutated. Food poisoning has been at an all-time high. As if the lessons of BSE and the salmonella in eggs scandal were not enough, the gen-etically modified food scandal again exposes the fact that, where public health issues and safety are concerned, the controlling authorities down people's throats - any more and regulating bodies are too inept than GM foods can be.

to tackle the issue of GMs. Let us hope that the small business corner shop can win back customers from the multiples by selling natural produce. (Fay Goodman)

NEW STATESMAN

SCIENTISTS HAVE to make a living like anybody else and those in the forefront of biotechnology research. hungry for grants from industry and government, are hardly likely to sup-port a moratorium on further work. So what should the Government do? One answer is to produce food in order to feed people, not to make profits. Another, perhaps more realistic is to treat people as adults, giv-ing them the (uncertain) facts, insisting on proper labelling and then allowing them to make up their own minds. Which is exactly the policy that governments adopt for the riskiest products of all: tobacco and alcohol.

THE SUN

ALTERING THE way Mother Nature produces the things we eat may well be to everyone's benefit. But no one is going to be reassured by the glib words of any politician, least of all Jack Cunningham. And while Lord Sainsbury (recognise the name, shoppers?) is a junior minister the Government will find it hard to convince anyone it has no axe to grind. The Sun has never made the mistake of leaping on to the bandvagon of every latest scare story. We didn't do it with Aids or BSE - and we're not going to with GM. What we need is exhaustive scientific tests and an unbiased, factual opinion.

THE MIRROR

THE ATTACKS on Lord Sainsbury are a red herring in the storm over GM foods. For it all comes down to the public's lack of confidence in their safety. Tony Blair, usually so in touch with public opinion, is for once out of step. He must understand that his opinions on these controversial new products cannot be rammed

Leader's fate inflames Kurds

TURKISH DAILY NEWS

TURKEY IS a powerful state whose arms can extend everywhere to apprehend a criminal and bring him to justice. Turkey has proved that it is an asset for its friends and a dreaded enemy for its foes. It has flexed its muscles in the Ocalan event and has proven its value. Turkey not only pushed Ocalan out of Syria hut also prevented any European country from giving refuge to this terrorist leader. His arrest is only the beginning. We feel he should be brought to justice without any delay or fuss. However, we all have to be on guard against emotional separatist terrorist outbursts these days, both at home and in Europe.

LA STAMPA

ALL THE European countries have good reasons to try to stay away from the Ocalan case. Germany has to think about its 2 million Turks and half a million Kurds residing on its territory, and about the possible risks for its public order. Greece already has very difficult relations with Turkey In Italy, part of the leftist parties have close ties to the PKK [Kurdish Workers' Partyl and the volatile government majority may split over Ocalan. But the truth is that the Kurds are a nation, the PKK is a party, and the European Union is neither.

The Kurdish problem may even be impossible to solve. Europe doesn't have the courage to either to face it or simply deny it. As it always happens, Europe could only cover its weakness with silence.

MAARIV Jerusalem

TURKEY WILL be sorry that Ocalan was captured. The Kurds will express their feelings not only in the streets of Europe but also by acts of terror in Turkey. World opinion sees people such as Ocalan as freedom fighters. If he is sentenced to death, world leaders will act for his amnesty. The Kurds will take hostages in an effort to win the freedom of their leader. The struggle for Kurdish independence will be renewed. It's questionable whether all this is worth the



ABDULLAH OCALAN'S ARREST

Verdicts on Turkey's capture and intended trial of the leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party, Abdullah Ocalan

head of the leader of the underground, who was seen as an escaped terrorist.

> THE AGE Australia

making representations on behalf of Kurds,

they could do worse than exploit that relationship and whatever leverage we can exert. Turkey's treatment of the Kurds remains a stumbling block to its joining the EU and it knows it. The Government should press Turkey to ensure that Mr. Ocalan's trial is both fair and transparent IF AUSTRALIAN Kurds are genuine about and that a better deal can be found for the country's Kurdish population.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

THE KURDS have long been a people in search of their own country. They have been gassed by Saddam Hussein in Iraq and persecuted in Iran. In Turkey, they represent some 15 per cent of the population today, and their claims go back to 1920. It is one measure of Turkey's unbending approach to dissent that the separatist rebellion has gone so long without a neg-otiated settlement. At first blush, it doesn't appear that Ocalan's arrest will make such a settlement any more likely.

KHALEEJ TIMES

The mood in Turkey is both jubilant and defiant in the face of Western criticism. It would, however, be in Ankara's interest to hold a fair interrogation and trial of Ocalan and to be seen to be doing so. At home, Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit is a doubly crowned hero-during an earlier stint Turkish troops had invaded northern Cyprus and remain there - but he will need to negotiate through choppy international waters with great care and astuteness to sell his new triumph to the world.

THE JAPAN TIMES

THE CAPTURE of Ocalan, used wisely, could permit the Turkish government to claim that it has defeated the armed struggle and is now ready to get on with a political solution. Ocalan has never been an ideal leader, and a more thoughtful, politically attractive and savvy leader could now emerge in his place. That may not be good news for Turkey with its current policies - especially since the trial of Ocalan, if not handled right, presents Ankara with major problems, attracting international press coverage, putting Turkish justice itself on trial and perhaps creating a national martyr for the Kurdish population. Handled correctly, his trial could also present a major opportunity for the government to demonstrate a new tolerance toward Kurdish political activity in the country among moderate, non-violent and democratic Kurdish leaders. Turkey should have the self-confidence to move in this direction.

KEVIN KEEGAN'S PART-TIME JOB

Views on the Football Association's decision to appoint Kevin Keegan as temporary manager of England football team

THE EVENING MAIL

MANAGING ENGLAND is more than a livelihood, it is the greatest honour our game can bestow. A life of itself. Al-Fayed, Keegan's boss at Fulham, appears to understand this and gave permission to Keegan to talk to the FA. For Keegan not to would have seemed withit. He is a man whose emotional agonies have fascinated us and who preferred to play golf in Spain to staying in the game.

EVENING STANDARD

QUITE WHAT has transformed Keegan from helmsman of Mohamed Fayed's moneyladen "plucky cup battlers" to potential world-beater in the fortnight since Hoddle's departure is unclear. But we must wish him well and hope that, in the short term at least, his



abandon sticking-plaster solutions, look a little further than inspiration and set up a conveyor belt of tactically astute

THE BIRMINGHAM POST

ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

THIS GIVES the former England captain the opportunity to test out the demands of the national job. He has the best of all worlds. Win and he's a hero. Lose and he's only the caredrive will do the trick. In the taker with an exit door wedged longer term, the FA must ajar for a swift getaway.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

Ireland

THE SUN

KEEGAN IS in an awkward snot. He can't answer to the FA and the oily Egyptian. We need an above-board appointment with no strings. And that means no deals with a man as slippery as camel dung.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

ONE OR two of Keegan's predecessors have been found twisting in the wind, hanged by their own words. In certain sections of the press, he will find our football managers and coaches are treated far more severely than any of our politicians. There will be unsuccessful days on the field, after which he will find himself described on the pages of the tabloid newspapers in terms designed to make his family flee their home. He will find it easier to take this playfulness with good humour if he learns by heart Kipling's poem, "If".

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

THE GAZETTE

Canada

HILLARY CLINTON'S AMBITIONS The US press considers the possibility of the First

Lady running for election to the Senate

TOPEKA CAPITAL Gore. Either would be viewed by her as a stepping stone.

IT WAS clear from the outset

that Hillary Rodham Clinton would not be a cookie-baking first lady. She has her own following, and undoubtedly her own silent ambitions. Mrs Clinton has emerged from her husband's scandal looking only taller for her dignified air and measured tongue - and for weathering the buffeting winds stirred up by her husband's philandering. A race in 2000 with her in it would be intriguing. In fact, why not stage another Dole-Clinton race for president - only in high heels?Just when you thought politics was dull ...

USA TODAY

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM this week has Hillary running next year for a US Senate seat from New York State. Probably. Or

With 20 or more years left for her own political career, Hillary's goal has to be a return to the White House as the first

female president. She might

by her as a stepping stone.

make it, sans a "first man". Unless Elizabeth Dole beats her to it, hubby Bob in hand.

possibly even as vice-presi-dential running mate to Al

PIONEER PLANET LET US once again turn to the Constitution: "If the president is impeached in the House and acquitted in the Senate - his wife must move to New York." Speculation akimbo: If Hillary runs for Senate, her campaign could be both lively and a perfect cover for a trial separation. Try to imagine Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton as a new junior member. Who's going to tell her that her seat is in the back? Or, President Elizabeth Dole - as

hostage by the thug society.

first husband Bob hosts the traditional Senate spouses lunch, where Bill Clinton is wearing a name tag. been done to prevent the part-

JACK STRAW HAS A GO

Response to the Home Secretary's appeal to the public not to turn a blind eye to crime

THE EXPRESS

DRAWING THE line between standing up for the citizen on the street and putting one's own personal security at risk is difficult. The danger in Jack Straw's call for an end to the walk on by society is that in obeying his command people will get hurt. None the less he is right: if we did all stand up for each other more, it would make an enormous difference to our quality of life. We should not allow ourselves to be held

THE GUARDIAN

STRAW SHOULD use his authority over the police to encourage a preventive line by officers at the scene of crimes. Instead of asking witnesses what they saw, officers should ask how events were allowed to get so out of hand. It ought to make witnesses think more deeply about what could have

as a one-off soundbite or has a proper follow-through.

icular crime or antisocial

behaviour. The test facing Mr

Straw is whether his attack on

the "walk on by" society is left

DAILY MAIL WE ARE an undisciplined society, teeming with self-right-eous semi-anarchists, in which we increasingly use the law to try to regulate fairly minor antisocial behaviour. The result is... many people feel that to be active citizens in the way Straw recommends is to go along with an increasing husybodi-

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

ness that is deeply unpopular.

MR STRAW'S rallying cry is an admirable one, but until he takes steps to ensure that enforcing the law will not land the ordinary citizen on the wrong side of it, it may fall on deaf ears.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE JOURNAL

TODAY IS "Kids Aren't Cargo Day". This refers to the danger posed to children riding in the beds of pick-up trucks. That danger is such an obvious one that it is hard to believe anyone would allow their children to do such a thing.

MILLIYET Turkey

THE AUDIO cassette to be Virtue Party (FP) rallies begins with litanies m praise of God

story of the "mad Russian priest". In the new version, the lyrics, in Turkish, are a call for justice and freedom. For the first time, female voices are used on an FP cassette. The FP Chairman approved of the cassette, according to the chairman of Ironyplus, the advertising company which prepared the medley.

VIETNAM NEWS

WHEN THE national judo team took part in the games in Beijing after a 16-year absence, it returned home empty-handed played at the pro-religion Just a year later we've picked up the gold medal at the Games held in Manila, signalling an and ends with Boney M's impressive return by Vietnam "Rasputin", which tells the into the regional jude arena.

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"In future, I will do as little as I can get away with." Julie Walters, actor (pictured)

"It's the worst day for Frinton since the Luftwaffe beat up the town in 1944." Roy Caddick, secretary of Frinton Association, on the vote allowing the

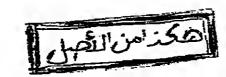
"If you have a problem seeing naked bodies, you have a problem," Melinda Messenger, model and television presenter

town its first pub.

"You don't have to not like sex, drugs and rock'n'roll just hecause you stop." Kate Moss, model

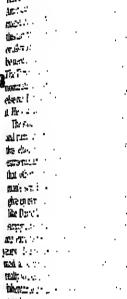
British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's fiercely shrewd eyes." Camille Paglia feminist author and broadcaster

We middle-aged should firmly boycott all those businesses that show the slightest signs of having been infected by the youth virus." John Humphrys, broadcaster



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Lack Strew has a go

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Missing: one doctor, one dentist, one hairdresser

IT MUST be a couple of years now since I saw my doctor, by which I general admin these days. "Nonmean the general practitioner with whom I am officially registered. Every time I make an appointment I see a different locum, each as friendly and as efficient as the last, and yet I cannot help feeling vagualy dissatisfied with the arrangement. I like my doctor, or, at any rate, what I remember of him. He has, after all, been privy to the more intimate details of my private life for nearly 20 years, and while friendliness and efficiency play an important part in the doctor-patient relationship, familiarity

must surely have its place, too. "How come I never get to see Dr T any more?" I asked the receptinnist last time I went to the surgery. She said she didn't know, she was new herself, but she

sense." said the woman following me into the waiting room. "He's got a very lucrative little number addressing focus groups in California about how much job satisfaction he gets out of being a GP in London."

Thinking about it afterwards on the hus going home. I was struck by just how tedious a GP's life must be - peering down infected throats, squinting into seeping ears, prod-ding pus, examining rashes on the less attractive parts of the human anatomy. The wonder is that more of them don't cut and run to Califormia in search of focus groups.

And then, funnily enough, the be for six weeks, I'm afraid." No, not same thing happened with my denfocus groups this time. Forensic tist. "He only comes in three days a week now," explained his secredentistry, that's what my dentist does on Thursdays and Fridays. He tary. "Your first appointment won't helps the police to identify murder

victims by their dental records, Last time I went, he'd just come back from the Far East where he'd been helping investigators to identify more than 100 people killed in an air crash. I remembered that particular crash. About 30 people survived, and through a mouthful of spit – he was performing a par-SUE ARNOLD ticularly delicate root-canal treat ment - I asked my dentist where Peering down infected the survivors had been sitting. The older I get the more paranoid throats - the wonder is

more of them don't cut

and run to California

I become about flying. He said it had been nne of his jobs to reposition the bodies in their seats for this very reason, but alas, there was no set pattern for survival, no guaranteed safe seat. The upshot of all this is that, far from dreading them, I now relish my twice-yearly visits and the prospect of yet more macabre tales.

Everyone benefits from an nutside interest. I was planning on finding mine in the 25 years I am due to spend in the wilderness shortly: if I follow the ancient Hindu rule for a perfect life. The guru who gave them to me had just returned from his wilderness stint. Here's how it goes. In your

first 25 years on earth you grow in mind and body. In your next 25 years you achieve, you acquire. In ynur third 25 you rennunce the world, go into the wilderness and meditate, and in your last period you return to society and teach the wisdom you've learnt in the wilderness. I wonder whether California counts as a wilderness. With any luck, when my doctor returns he will regale me with so much Bnywatch wisdom that it will quite take my mind off my curstory began.

The last locum I saw in place of Dr T advised me that there was a five-month waiting-list to see the NHS consultant. In the circumstances. I'd better go privately. Did I have private medical insurarce? Certainly not, I don't believe in it. I said. "In that case," said the locum, "it will cost you about £150 but you can see him tomorrow."

I had no idea that private hospitals were such luxurious places. This was less a hospital than a hotel, with flunkeys in red satin waistcoats carrying silver trays full of dainty afternoon teas along thickly carpeted corridors. My con-sultant, who had a spotted bow tie and a pink carnation in his huttonhole, neither squinted, peered, prodded nor examined. He merely

glanced at the X-rays of my wretched fingers and said, in the weary tones of one who has said it many times before, "The trouble with us writers is that there is no real cure apart from anti-inflammatory pills, which could have side-effects, and steroid injections. which don't always work." Now there's a man whn's been stuck in a rut too long and could do with an nutside interest, such as California focus groups or murder victims.

"And you paid £150 for that?" gasped a friend. Well no, I paid CES. £150 for the consultation and £75 for the X-rays.

To cheer myself up I rang the hairdresser for an appointment. "It'll have to be next Thursday," said the girl. "Gavin only works two days a week now. Didn't you know? He's training to be a magistrate."

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

TERRENCE MALICK, FILM DIRECTOR

The return of the maverick

TERRENCE MALICK, the J D Salinger of American film-making, is back after a The New Yorker sniffed that it was "so premagisterial 20-year hiatus. Never mind that conceived that there's nothing left to rethis famous recluse won't give interviews or allow a recent photograph of himself to be used in publicity drives. His war movie The Thin Red Line, with its clutch of Oscar nominations, speaks for itself. No one else but Terrence Malick could have made it. He's unique.

The swirl of legends, whispered stories and rumours that surround the name of extraordinary. He's almost as reclusive as that other film-making, unshaven, oilman's son, Howard Hughes. Why did he give up film-making for 20 years? Did he, like David Lean after Ryan's Daughter, sumply give up after a very bad film-making experience (in Lean's case, for 14 years)? Did he, perhaps, go picturesquely mad, as some bave rashly said? Was he really working through a vast, gas-dollar inheritance throughout the Eighties? Why exactly was he living in Paris? Was he perhaps in some reclusive-director pact with Stanley Kubrick, just over the Channel?

We do know a few facts about Malick. We know for sure that he was born in 1943 in Ottawa, Illinois, the son of a wealthy oilcompany executive. He was mostly raised in the Texan redoubt of Waco among the gently nodding donkeys of the oilfields ves, that Waco. A super-hright Harvard graduate, he studied as a Rhodes schnlar at Oxford before becoming a journalist for

Newsweek, Life and The New Yorker. When that career failed to please him, he opted for another, loftily teaching philosophy at MIT, before finally succumbing to the mire of film-making. He went off to film school and then started writing scripts at a dime a dozen.

It's here that the legends begin: that in 1971 he had a hand in the screenplay (uncredited) for Drive He Said, Jack Nicolson's forgotten directorial début and follow-up to Easy Rider. Then there's a fairly credible story that it was Malick who wrote the first draft for that classic Clint Eastwood vehicle, Dirty Harry. Who knows? By 1972 he was getting legit, and he wrote an accredited screenplay for Stuart Rosenberg's Pocket Money before following up the next year with his stunning directorial début, Badlands. Malick really arrived in 1973 - and no matter that e shared that year's honour with Martin corsese and his debut, Mean Streets. Badlands starred Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek as a deranged dustman and his moll on a killing spree through the eponymous Badlands of Dakota and Montana. It's a seminal film that still knocks a dozen later sleazy exploitation clones into a cocked hat; its air of unreality is accentuated by the odd musical score and the superb cinematography. As an examination of the murder and surreality behind the white picket fences of the US suburbs in the Fifties, it pre-dates David Lynch's similar incursions by many years.

Nevertheless Malick's old employer spond to". It's an accusation that has dogged the director all these years - that he's absurdly cerebral and wiltingly highbrow. Of The Thin Red Line, even that receptacle of supposedly august film criticism, Sight and Sound, churlishly asserts that "[the] Christian symbolism seasoned with a hodgepodge of anthropological references... suggests that Malick has spent this elusive 56-year-old film-maker are more time than was good for him reading The Golden Bough".

Another three years went by before he tried another film, and again it was a

LIFE STORY

Origins: Born 1943, Ottawa, Illinois. Precise date unknown: Background: Father an executive at Phillips Petroleum. Two hrothers. Education: Episcopalian School, Austin, Texas. Harvard University. Rhodes scholar, Oxford. Married: First, Jill Jakes, an assistant to the director Arthur Penn; now married to Michèle Gleaspon, from France. Career: Jnurnalism (Newsweck, Time and The New Yorker), lecturer in phllosophy at MIT, and cinema. Training: American Film Institute. Translator of Heidegger's The

of Heaven (1977) and The Thin Red Line (1999). Residence: Paris, France. Philosophy: "Our confusinn is nnt anarchic, it has its nwn discipline." (Introduction to Heidegger)

Films: Badlands (1973), Days

Essence of Reasons.

His colleagues say: "He's a genius. That's the good news and the bad news." His actors complain: "Terry won't let go. He'll nit-pick you tn death."

He says: Almost nothing.

classic. But after finishing the shoot, Malick spent two years in the editing suit, cut-ting and recutting the scenes with the kind of perfectionist mania for which he was fast becoming famous. (This is where he differs most from Kubrick: Kubrick has an almost mathematical approach to the construction of movies, whereas Malick is always thought of as having a "poetical" approach, a more lyrical style, editing on hunches rather than searching out the perfect take.) Eventually the completed film was prised out of his reluctant hands, and Days of Heaven was released in 1978. A far more sweeping film than Bodlands, it features Sam Shepherd as a dying gentleman farmer living in a wooden, Gothic house like an island in a sea of wheat. Enter Richard Gere and Brooke Adams as sea-

sonal migrant workers who con their way

into Shepherd's life; cue tragedy, death and vast panoramas of a 19th-century prairie harvest. The photographer Nestor Almendros netted an Oscar for his work on the movie, which Variety was to dub "One of the great cinematic achievements of the

But things were awry in Malick's world. Even before the movie was released, news of his fights with Richard Gere were legendary. The director is known for brooking no argument, he sees his own movies as personal quests of a quasi-mystical nature, which certain actors are invited to attend. Malick, like Prospero with his spirits, lays down the law in his private domain; but the uppity Gere - we assume in pre-Buddhist phase - decided to take his ego for a walk.

After the movie's critical success, Malick was offered a dream movie deal by Charles Bluhdorn, head of Paramount's parent company Gulf & Western, which allowed him virtually unlimited resources in which to come up with his next movie. Shuttling between homes in Austin, Texas and one in Paris, Malick began to tinker with a film that would dramatise "the origins of life". He very expensively assembled footage from all over the world - the Arctic, the Great Barrier Reef-featuring pulsating jellyfish and fracturing ice-shelves. Whenever Paramount was foolish enough to ask for some results, Malick would simply send them an incomprehensible script full of visual descriptions of invertebrates and with no dialogue whatsoever. It was a splendid, career-destroying folly. Paramount got nervous, but Malick preempted them; in 1983 he walked away from the megalomaniac project altogether and disappeared into the wilderness.

What did he do then? Nobody really seems to know the answer. His friends are all sworn to silence. It's clear that he didn't really need to earn a living, but maybe the answer was a simple creative block. The sprawling, unfocused nature of his Origins of Life project certainly seem to indicate an artistic crisis: that he was stuck in a rut of gathering material, but never having the confidence to fashion it.

There are persistent rumours that he became a highly paid script-doctor (not necessarily a lowly job - Carrie Fisher does it - but certainly an invisible one). But this seems mildly implausible, bearing in mind that conventional narrative has never been one of Malick's strong points. And yet here is a contradiction: for all his highbrow leanings as a director of his own material. we discover that during the Eighties he was involved in such pap as the Jerry Lee Lewis biopic Great Balls of Fire and the 1989 Paul Newman vehicle Blaze.

How did the man who dreamt up Dirty Harry and Great Balls of Fire come to be regarded as a great poet of American cinema, almost without par, a legend partly because he never makes anything and all he has ever made has been exceptional? Extraordinary talents are allowed their contradictions, perhaps; but his



hack work does belie an interest and understanding in conventional moviemaking and pop culture, an interest that is entirely subsumed by the more philosophical bent of his own directed films.

In 1989 Malick was approached by the theatre producers Robert Geisler and John Roberdeau to write a script for DM Thomas's novel The White Hotel. He turned down this account of the Holocaust (oft admired, still unfilmed) and told them he was willing to write either The Thin Red Line (based on James Jones's book) nr Molière's Tartuffe. They passed on the French number. When the script of the war movie was delivered, the producers set to

work to persuade Malick to direct it. When it was suddenly announced that Malick was casting for a new movie, there was an almost unseemly rush as every young actor who had grown up working the video of Badlands ragged vied for a role. There were more than 50 speaking parts in the script; plenty of roles were on offer. No matter that the producers let in de- erly style and with a pointed tendency for

stabilising cameos from the likes of George Clooney and John Travolta (thereby injecting a weird sense of Nineties celebrity culture into this paean to the Second World War battle of Guadalcanal. in the Solomon Islands). Big names wanted in.

Here's a small window nn the man, Actors whn report their phone calls from Malick, who would personally tell them that they had been cast, reveal a very softlyspoken, understated person. He would be almost apologetic, as if they were doing him a favour rather than the other way round. He was always refined, polite and rather European m his manner.

The Thin Red Line is up against Saving Private Ryan in the Oscar stakes, but it does seem possible that Malick will steal Best Director from Spielberg. Spielberg. by all accounts, admires Malick, sharing a limo with him to one award ceremony recently; Malick has just the kind of broad sweeps that Spielberg idolises in David Lean, though with a distinctly more paintarcane lyricism. The Thin Red Line is dream-like, obsessed with natural images and order (despite the horrors of war), and though Malick shares with Spielberg a tendency to explore issues of masculinity; he is a highly cerebral film-maker. When

he's behind the camera, at least So if you watch the Oscar ceremonies you may see a sighting of a very rare hird tanother Malick fact: he's an expert nrnithologist), the Hollywood recluse. He's already indicated that he enjoyed the experience of making The Thin Red Line so much that he wants to direct another soon, though it's hard to say wbether he d still have the power that such a comeback project always has. Would famous actors clear their diaries for him next time? Whu knows. At least he's back: a great director, safely back from the sticks, making unconventional, expressive and inspired movies of the kind no one else can manage. Hollywood needs its mavericks now more than ever. It needs its slow-burning fuses.

calling him Douglas or John. It just one point - even though Moss doesn't work. But Stirling suggests the driver's essential Englishness, an Englishness that hardly ever existed outside the movies or the pyels of Ian Fleming. We're talking steely determination, feats of

and, underpinning it all, the English gentleman's code of honour The 1958 Portuguese Grand Prix provides a perfect example of Stirling the gent. His British rival, Mike Hawthorn, spun his car and was threatened with disqualification and the loss of seven points. Moss, whn witnessed the incident, spoke up for Hawthurn, who was allowed

to keep the seven points, ensuring

silk scarves, cocktails till dawn,

ISN'T THE name just perfect? Try that he won the championship - by outgunned him in race victories by four to one.

Moss, of course, never won a drivers' championship. That's how English he was. He was a patriot one of the reasons for his failure to win the championship was his derring-do executed with panache. determination to drive for British teams whenever possible - but that was not what endeared him to the British public. By the time Stirling emerged in 1948, they had had enough of that in the war. Stirling was a dashing cavalier, brightening the post-war austerity and helping his countrymen forget about petrol rationing and bread queues.

But don't allow the raffishly flying

scarf and the Cooper cars from the

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

28: STIRLING MOSS, RACING DRIVER

believing that this was some kind of one he would choose. romantic amateur. Moss was keenly aware of his own worth, and pursued endorsements enthusiastically.

the Crown Topper, a toupee, despite never seeking to hide the baldness that afflicted him - blessed him, he would say - from his mid-twenties.

little factory in Surbiton fool you into were to wear a wig, this would be the

Stirling's lack of hair, he recently told the BBC programme Sporting Greats, has in fact enabled him to He even had the gall to advertise retain his sexual allure into his twilight years, since his appearance is not significantly different from that m his racing days.

He is now 69, and makes his the product indicated that if he expensive dinners. By all accounts, took to the track.

he gives excellent value, as ever It is difficult to think of anyone other than Moss who could get away with telling an audience of hlue-rinses on a cruise ship: "In 1954 I went by ship to Sebring, on the Queen Elizabeth, but I only went by sea because of the crumpet. Mind you, there's not much crumpet on this one."

It's difficult to know how much the "crumpet" - a recurring feature of Moss's reminiscences - was, alongside the silk scarves and the baldness, part of what would now be called brand-building (a black-andwhite newsreel hero, maybe, but ahead of his time), hut you could excuse drivers of his era living for the moment, given the extraordinary His rather ambivalent tribute to living telling racing stories at dangers they faced every time they

"The cars were mobile deathtraps," according to the commentator Murray Walker. "There were petrol tanks over the drivers' legs. behind them and alongside them. There was no crush protection; the drivers had no safety-beits; they wore T-shirts with bare arms, and linen trousers and helmets."

But it's not the fact that he chose to risk death that makes Stirling a hero, but the style and extraordinary skill with which he did it. He also earns our respect by his unwillingness to remain rooted in that era. He retains a keen interest in the current Formula One scene, and is unfailingly generous to modern drivers in their much safer cars. Another sterling quality. And to think his mother wanted to call him Hamish.



THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



The cuckoo pint and elder leaves Are first to come and long to stay And Spring, the tinker loiters near But never gives the game away Then cold sets in to close the day.

Rhubarb, rhubarb, that's the stuff. Unfashionable? No, think again. The restaurants can't get enough And "forced" may be the New Champagne. The compotes with foie gras terrine Mean rhubarb's coming home at last. But Rheum rhaponticum once seen In gardens of my misspent past Was massive in its leaves and stem And only grown so boys like me Could catapult great holes in them From high up in a nearby tree.

With sedatives dropped in their food To temper those in frisky mood The horses of Her Majesty Are not as sharp as they should be. Excessive equine joie d'esprit May hinder Household Cavalry Who cannot risk being thrown en masse Base over apex - or cuirasse. The drug with which the fodder's laced Goes by the clubby name of "paste", And, stoned on it, the steeds stand by To do their duties dull of eye. Now some will say this needs to be For state occasions' dignity, While others may prefer of course To stone the Palace, not the horse.

Hang on! It's "Nineteen Eighty-three... A Merman I Shall Turn To Be". This isn't some nostalgia drift -But Hendrix playing in the lift! The firm that brought you Muzak say That Jimi's been decreed OK, So hotel lobbies, lifts and halls Have Hendrix bouncing round the walls. A snappy slogan, too, no doubt: "Turn up, turn in, nod off, check out." And there beside the freebie soap, "Your complimentary blim of dope".

The food, the food of Frankenstein Is cheap, looks good and tastes divine. We smoke, we drink, we drive a car -Such temples as our hodies are. Why panic when our soya beans Are modified by dubious means? Besides, our kids, the little loves, Look sweet in their three-fingered gloves.

THE WEASEL

Great platefuls of whelks, tripe and bone marrow are preparation for a veritable feast of Goya in a city where it pays to be French

its textile workers inspired Victor Hugo to pen some of his less cheery works, modern Lille turned out to be incomparably more wealthy, stylish and well-preserved than any British town of the same size (pop 172,000). It boasts two world-class art museums, a trendily spruced-up old town, a thriving theatre (Peter Brook's company is currently in residence) and a food market that would not look out of place in heaven. How do the Froggies manage it? On our visit last weekend, Mrs W and I took sly consolation from the prodigious mounds and curlicues of dog shit which force pedestrians to perform a frequent fandango when negotiating the city's pavements. At least in curbing their pooches, the British are streets ahead.

Parisian pals, we made tracks for a brasserie. I stoked up on bulots in garlic sauce (why are French whelks so much tastier than ours?) and the tripe sausage known as andouillette. Incidentally, in her classic volume Charcuterie, Jane Grigson writes that this delicacy is "quite easy to make at home... If you have to clean the tripes yourself, the bath is the best place." Anyway, it was around the mid-way point in this blow-out that I saw another dish being delivered to a neighbouring table which I simply had to have. It was not so much greed as the strictures of Britain's nanny state that prompted me to order this treat.

A few minutes later, something resembling a pile of sawn-up cricket bats was placed before me. "This is illegal

THOUGH THE wretched conditions of in Angleterre," I told our bemused friends as I probed the bot beef bones for their cache of oozy marrow. To be honest, f felt a bit queasy afterwards. I'm sure it was the unhappy gastronomic marriage of whelks, tripe and fatty marrow that caused my discomfort, but I don't know whether I'll get quite so worked up about New Labour's interdict in future.

HOWEVER, WE were not in Lille just to pig out on Flanders nosh. At the Modern Art Museum, we saw works ranging from a stumning hlack-and-white Jackson Pollock to a concrete-mixer carved in wood (nothing to get churned up about). But the main point of our visit was a rare exhibition of works by Goya After rendezvousing with our at Lille's grandiose Palais des Beaux Arts. Mind you, it seemed touch and go whether we would gain admittance to the Spanish masterpieces. "You didn't book in advance? Ob dear!" clucked an English couple we ran into on Saturday morning. It seemed to me that their sympathy was not without a touch of schadenfreude. "We just managed to get in by queuing last night. It's bound to be worse today."

Sure enough, when we entered the museum an endless serpent of Goya fans was queuing for admission. It was painfully reminiscent of the time when Mrs W and I went to Amsterdam for the Van Gogh centenary show a decade ago and, omitting to buy tickets in advance, saw no more than the shaking head of a Rijksmuseum guard.

But I'd forgotten the power of l'état in France. The male half of our French chums works for the Ministry of Culture. He coolly skipped the queue, whis-pered in an official ear and returned with four tickets. On the following morning we were prowling the Goyas - a hallncinatory mix of glowing portraits and nightmarisb visions - before the army of aesthetes arrived.



Our influential pal pulled off an even more impressive feat when we visited Paris a couple of summers ago. At the time, be was involved in refurbishing a number of churches prior to a Papal visit. (Rather cannily, the Holy Father did not reveal exactly which church he intended to pop into, but provided the French government with a list of possibilities.) From the observation deck at the top of the Pompidou Centre, our friend pointed out the

structures which he had embellished with state funds: "There's one of mine. and there and there..." And all over Paris, freshly gilded spires and domes glittered where his finger pointed.

AS WE prepared to part from our French friends, we realised that our rail journeys home would take exactly the

same time. Their journey from Lille to Paris Gare du Nord was scheduled to take exactly 64 minntes, the same as our subterranean hike to Ashford International. My joy at this symmetry was only slightly marred by the fact that the return tickets for the Weasels cost £152.40 (which I grizzled about at length last week), while the Parisian duo paid only £65. I suppose someone has to cough up for that £10.5bn hole under the Channel. OK, so there was a slight disparity in travel costs, but the cost of a two-night stay in a Lille hotel is bound to be the same for French and English guests, isn't it? Well, no, as a matter of fact. Taking advantage of a government scheme

aimed at encouraging the French to take weekend breaks in the republic's towns rather than the countryside, our friends paid exactly half as much as us. So much for the entente cordiale.

IT WOULD only end in tears on this side of the Channel, but I rather like the French babit of naming streets after the great and good. Mind you, some names are better than others. Our Parisian pals have the good fortune to live near rue Brillat-Savarin (18th arrondissement), which honours the culinary philosophe, but it must be slightly dispiriting for their daughter who recently moved to rue Emile Durkheim (13th arr), the renowned authority on suicide.

After flipping through the pages of the Plan de Paris, the capital's equivalent of the London A to Z. I realise that there are many worse possibilities. Imagine the chagrin, if you happen to be nasally well-endowed, of living on rue Cyrano de Bergerac (18th arr), and it would surely intensify the pain of cuckoldry if you had the misfortune to live on rue Feydeau (2nd arr), which celebrates France's sauciest farceur. It would be scarcely reassuring to reside on rue Becquerel (18th arr), who gave his name to a measure of radioactive exposure. I wonder whether the residents of avenue Prud'hon (16th arr), who was famous for believing "all property is theft", suffer a particularly high rate of hurgiaries?

Imagine the surreal pleasure of starting the day on allee Andre Breton (1st arr) or walking your lobster down rue Gerard de Nerval (18th arr). Some addresses are singularly appropriate for Anglophone residents: it will always be summertime on rue George Gershwin (12th arr), but a touch chilly on rue du Capt Scott (15th arr) and undoubtedly creepy on rue Edgar Poe (19th arr). Tm sure that rue du Docteur Finlay (15th arr) imparts a bracing hint of Tannochbrae to the rive gauche. Personally, I feel irresistibly drawn to avenue Gordon Bennett (18th arr).

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SPIRIT OF THE AGE

PAUL VALLELY

The medieval strikes a chord

sits oddly amid the tomes of medieval Latin on Denys Turner's shelves. Yet if it feels an anachronism, it is by no means an exception. In pop, there are the Medieval Baebes. In classical catalogues, the music of the Middle Ages is the largest growth area. In pulp fiction, there are the best-selling early medieval mysteries of Ellis Peters' modern-minded Brother Cadfael, All things medieval are now the fashion.

Hardly surprising, then, that the newest professor of divinity at Cambridge is to be a medievalis -Denys Turner, currently head of the ertment at Birmi So I went to his study there to ask what lessons we should draw from the current fad. Isn't interest in the Middle Ages just a lot of romantic escapism?

He began, as academics do, by taking issue with my vocabulary. "The very term 'Middle Ages' suggests an impoverished period which merely connects two important ages - the Classical and the Renaissance," he began. "It assumes that in that degenerate and corrupt period-after Augustine in the fourth century and before Luther in the 16th - nothing important happened. But the idea of ignoring more than half of the entire

history of Christianity is eccentric." In any case, the medieval is very post-modern, if you focus on its tradition of mysticism rather than on the fact that life in those days was, in Hohbes's caricature, poor, nasty, vival of interest in that area - Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart, Margerie Kempe. People are groping back through modernism to that pre-linguistic, ineffable experience of transcendence which is indescribable in scientific language."

Professor Turner doesn't seem terribly keen on science - or, at least, on its current inability to look beyond the bounds of the provable. The real Middle Ages, he reckons, is the time between 1470 and 1970. "It is then that the longer traditions of European thought were interrupted by capitalism and science – and the Enlightenment insistence that there's a rational answer to everything, that there is a grand historical narrative leading to the present moment, and that through instruments of reason and technology, humans can master nature."

This is not what I expected from a medievalist, but it seems to make contemporary sense. Our new ecological awareness now questions the assumption that put humankind at the centre of the universe, displacing both God and nature. Our new consciousness of the fallibility of language has made us impatient with the cul-de-sac of epistemology. And the myth of progress has been the subject of increasing scepticism, especially in its tendency to equate technological

progress with moral superiority. Exactly, said Dr Turner. "Postmodernism - with its deconstructive.

THE VIDEO of The Name of the Rose brutish and short. "There's a strong re-sceptical, ironic, almost nihilistic suspicion - is saying that there are alternative ways of thinking to the 'common sense' of modernity."

So, ditch the romantic medievalism of Chesterton, harking back to a golden age of Christendom, and William Morris trying to recapture a precapitalist idyll. And ditch their New Age equivalents, which Turner dismisses as "the religion of late capitalism - entirely parasitic upon what it rejects, repeating the mistakes of established religion, only the second time as farce".

Instead, be said, there is something real to he discovered by reuniting the traditions of mysticism (which is subjective and hard to describe) with theology (which is conceptual and non-experiential). "Western Christianity has let the two fall apart. In our time, we are witnessing a sense that we need to bring them back together."

What the medievalists understood was that "only negative statements about God are true; affirmative ones are always insufficient and inappropriate", be said. That is why Meister Eckhart said "a person must take leave of God, in order to find God". And the greatest of the medieval theologians, Thomas Aquinas, insisted that it is better to say that God does not exist than to say he does - for, as with all linguistic formulations, it can only diminish the Great Reality.

'It is only when you begin to push the bounds of language that you are pushes everything else out of the way. ulating language. But it may doing real theology," said Turner. People like Dawkins, says Turner, clues as to where we go next."



Prof Turner regards the Renaissance as the true Middle Ages

before we can begin to talk of God." Here, the links between contemporary views of language, meaning and value and those of the medieval mystics are manifold. Aquinas meets Wittgenstein not in what they said so much as in their approach. "How can you say that Christ is really present in the Eucharist? To do so, Aguinas has to develop a pretty sophisticated account of what language is, and how it hooks

This has nothing to do with the God that modern atheists, such as Richard Dawkins, attack. It sets on one side the deist account of God as a bloke who is just bigger than everyone else and

"Language has to become disordered have trouble with the idea that the world was created out of nothingprecisely because they use phrases such as "out of", which set the mind up to presume that even nothing is a funny kind of something. That is mak-. ing the mistake of assuming that the. universe is just a big place, even as he thinks God is just a big bloke.

"The big question for post-mod ernism is whether all this deconstruction offers a way forward, or is just in danger of disappearing up its own fundament," said the new professor of divinity. "The medievals can, perhaps, help us sort out the one from the other ... Of course, you can't restore their confidence in creation merely by manipulating language. But it may offer

DAYS LIKE THESE

22 FEBRUARY 1914

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, outhor (pictured), describes his mother's funeral:

"I must rewrite the burial service: for there are things in it that are deader than anyone it has ever been read over, hut I had it read not only because the parson must live by his fees, hut because, with all its faults, it is the most beautiful thing that can be read as yet.

At the passage 'earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust', there was a little alteration of the words to suit the process. A door opened in the wall: and the violet coffin mysteriously passed out through it and vanished as it closed. I went behind the scenes at the end of the service and saw the real thing. I found there the violet coffin opposite another door a real, unmistakable furnace door. When it lifted there was a plain little chamber of cement and firebrick. No heat. No noise. No roaring draught. No flame. No fuel. It looked cool, clean, sunny, though no sun could get



there. You would have walked in or put your hand in without misgiving. Then the violet coffin moved again and went in, feet first. And behold! The feet burst miraculously into streaming ribbons of garnetcoloured lovely flame. smokeless and eager, like entecostal tongues, and as the whole coffin passed in it sprang into flame all over; and my mother became that beautiful fire."

24 FEBRUARY 1842

LORD SHAFTESBURY, philanthropist and reformer. writes in his diary:

"All [the Prime Minister, Sir Robert] Peel's affinities are

towards wealth and capital. His heart is manifestly towards the mill-owners; his lips occasionally for the operatives. What has he ever done or proposed for the working classes? His speech of last night was a signal instance of his tendencies.

He suppressed all the

delinquencies of the manufacturers, bepraised machinery and treated the distress as severe but temporary. Now he might have said that no small portion of the suffering was caused by the forced immigration of families in 1836, reducing the already low wages, and aggravating the misery, in the stagnation which followed. He might have said, too, that while we cannot interdict machinery, we ought not to be blind to its effects; it may cheapen goods for the consumer, but it pauperises irrevocably thousands of workpeople, who can never resume their position, whatever be the

activity of the trade In short, the speech was a transcript of his mind: cotton is everything, man nothing!" IAN IRVINE

Singing the praises of Wales I AM prepared to admit, in passing, the antiquity of the Welsh race. We bave that on the authority of Shakespeare

of the bardic circle. He has told us - true, it was in a peroration - that nearly 2,000 years ago Suetonius Paulinus massacred, on the shores of Anglesey, a throng of priests and women while they were singing Welsh hymns. Six weeks ago, I heard the Dowlais choir singing Welsh bymns, and I do not think anyone on earth could have massacred them. They sang a hymn called "Jerusalem". and I think Paulinus would have knelt hy their side had be heard them. The complaint I make against you is that in moments of economic excitement such as we had in the coal strike last year, the sweet harmonies are broken

and on the authority of Mr Lloyd

George. Mr Lloyd George is a member

and the songs are turned into slogans. But of your antiquity there is no doubt. You are alleged to be directly descended from the Trojans. Geoffrey of Monmouth hath declared it, I venture to differ from the venerable Archdeacon. f am convinced that no Welshman would ever have allowed a

wooden horse inside the city. The Celtic memory was a long one, and to those who looked on the Welsh from over the border, it was a source of satisfaction to see that ancient as the race was, and ancient as was the



From a speech by the Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, delivered at the Saint David's Day banquet

PODIUM

in Cardiff (1 MARCH 1927)

language, and great as was their history, they had what many ancient peoples had not they had a present and

You have a present, and no one can have the slightest acquaintance with the achievements of Wales in the last 25 years without recognising the idealism with which you have challenged the raw and stubborn facts

of life and striven to transmute them. Where I now stand is almost without parallel in these islands for foresight in planning the buildings required for a great and growing centre of population. You have housed here your municipal, county and national authorities in a way which stirs the imagination and exalts the self-respect of your people. They are a tribute to the untiring zeal of hundreds of the best men and women in Wales. You have a beautiful country in Wales. Don't let strangers spoil it for you, and don't spoil it vourselves.

You have in Wales the Snowdon district, the city of St David and the bays beyond it; you have the Carnarvon peninsula, and just outside Wales there is the Forest of Dean. Isn't it possible to convert some of these districts into national possessions, which can never he disfigured, which can never be built over, where it may be possible to go in my old age without having to listen to the blast of a steam

whistle or the hoot of a motor-car? Men who deny their national spiritual heritage in exchange for a vague and watery cosmopolitanism become less than men; they starve and dwarf their personalities, they turn into a sort of political eunuch. But if the instinct of nationality is natural, it needs always to he directed and often to be curbed. We must temper it with other loyalties.

Long and bitter was the fighting between Wales and England, but there came a day when, under the banner with the dragon, Henry Tudor marched across Wales and placed upon his brow the crown of England. From that day the Welsh hegan to work with the English, giving what they had to the common stock, and drawing from the common stock what they needed, while preserving their own nationality, their own language and their own fire. I cannot end better than by quoting to you words more eloquent than mine. They are the words of Ben Jonson to

Queen Elizabeth "This country has always been fruitful of loyal hearts to Your Majesty, a very garden and seed plot of honest minds and men. What light of learning worth thinking whether it may not be hath Wales sent forth from your schools? What industrious students your law? What able ministers of your justice? Whence hath the Crown. in all times, better servitors, more liberal of their lives and fortunes? I am glad to see it and to speak it, and though the nation he said to be unconquered and most loving liberty. yet it was never mutinous, but stoutvaliant, courteous, hospitable, temperate, ingenious; capable of all good arts, most lovingly constant, charitable, great antiquaries, religious preservers of their gentry and genealogy, as they are zealous and knowing in religion."



THE WILLIAM REVIEW

THE SATURDAY ESSAY

It's no longer the story but the life that counts



HUGHES

With novels refusing to provide useful life maps, documentary has been obliged to step into the breach

THE BOOK by which Iris Murdoch is in danger of being most remembered is oot by her at all. The obituaries that met her death this month were more inclined to lead with John Bayley's memoir of his late wife Iris than ever they were with one of her 27 novels. Tricky Murdoch classics such as Under The Net, a book which re-drew the possibilities of what the post-War English novel might achieve, retreated into the shadows cast by Bayley's intimate memoir of his wife's last years with Alzheimer's disease. In the days following her death it was Murdoch'a miserable ending rather than her glorious achievements that tributes focused upon.

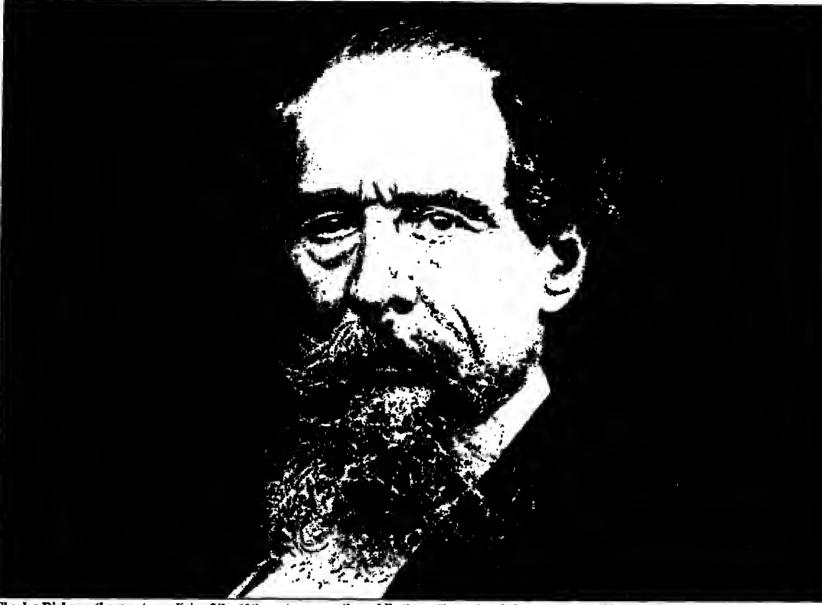
Of course, the irony of an Oxford philosopher losing her mind makes us want think about the connections between life and art. But more than that was going on in the days following Murdoch's death. Old. pre-Bayley lovers were identified and their pictures printed; Murdoch's domestic arrangements were picked over Her cheekbones, bicycle-riding and Irish inflections were all set down in detail. Murdoch's life - and her most private life at that - had become the real story.

Last year, almost as much biography was published as general fiction. The genre's growing popularity emerges from the current fascination with the real, or at least a highly mediated version of it, as shown by the popularity of magazines like OK and a rash of televisioo docu-soaps. Blake Morrison's dad and newspaper columns about disappointing husbands all offer the possibility of getting close to another person's life and, in the process, our own. Comparisons can be made, contrasts noted. Measured against these templates the mess of your own divorce, anorexia or alcoholism starts to look positively normal. Reading about other people's lives is the equivalent of coming away from a session of Cafe Rouge girl-talk feeling positively sane and saintly in com-

parison with your screwy friends. Once upon a time, novels filled this function too. Victorian fiction created threedimensional worlds with characters as solid as the furniture on which they sat. People a hit like you or me got themselves into scrapes, had adventures, died or won a fortune. A covel was counted a success if readers discussed the goings-on as if they had really happened. In 1871 the nation worried about how Dorothea Brooke was going to manage as Mrs Casaubon, while two decades earlier many a stolid paterfamilias got teary over the death of Jo the crossing-sweeper in Bleak House.

These days, by contrast, it is hard to get worked up about the fate of anyone who appears in a new oovel. Three decades of post-modernism have left us with narrators who refuse to play God, characters whn will not be read and plot lines that peter out on the road to oowhere. Modern terary fiction has invested all its considerable cleverness in trying to convince the reader that the world it describes oever existed. And the characters, well, the

characters never leave the page. So with novels refusing to provide useful life maps, documentary has been obliged to step into the breach. But just as no one ever met a woman who was quite like Dorothea Brooke, so we don't want to be presented with the dilemmas of people exactly like ourselves. We need them to be the same but different, close enough to be familiar, far enough away to inspire or cau-



Charles Dickens: the great novelists of the 19th century gave the public three-dimensional characters as solid as the furniture on which they sat

dington Green, about a dreary corner of central London, has hit the button by having a transsexual star Lakesiders, which similarly followed everyday shopping-mail folk, featured a girl in her journey from make-up counter to recording studio, a kind of Cinderella with too much slap.

And it's for exactly the same reason that we want our biographies - and our biographers - a little on the exotic side. Product recognition is vital, since publishers are naturally reluctant to pay advances for books about people no one has ever heard of. So the biographical subject needs to have written novels, won battles or painted pictures, while still having feet positively mired in clay. A tacky marriage, a bad habit or two, is just the thing to grab the reader's - and the publisher's - attention.

And, if no ooe has heard of either subject or biographer, there are ways of annexing other sources of celebrity. Not much was known about Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, until Harper-Collins published Amanda Foreman's biography last year. But the fact that the 18thcentury duchess was born a Spencer, endured a painful marriage and became hooked on a flashy, trashy lifestyle gave her a familiarity that made the most cautious reader feel like investing the decidedly odd sum of £19.99. Likewise Foreman's own picaresque life story - as the daughter of High Noon's screenwriter Carl Foreman. and an early academic failure - handed her publicists plenty to play with. And, as The Guardian pointed out recently, the girl's own good looks hardly harmed. Out of this cluster of extra contexts a commercial blockbuster was forged from what had

started life as Foreman's DPhil In this gossipy environment, biographers naturally feel under pressure to come up with saucy revelations about their subjects. At times it seems as if there is a kind of psychological striptease going on, with the biographer acting as MC. The recent spate of books on Virginia Woolf, for instance, concentrate on the sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of her half-brothers, the Duckworth boys. Several American studies pretty much read Woolf as a

tion. That's why BBC1's docu-soap Pad- psychiatric case history, and reduce her nerability to any man who wanted her. Con- possible men, getting much too thin and novels to a set of symptoms. This sudden interest might be understandable if the details of the Duckworths' fumblings had only just come to light. But Woolf herself gave away the information in the early Twenties, during two papers delivered to the Bloomsbury group's Memoir Club, as well as in numerous chats and letters.

It is not the facts that changed over the intervening 70 years, but the context in which they came to be written about. In the late Eighties and Nineties, sexual abuse gained a new resonance in the wake of scandals in Britain and America, Historians of the family had long surmised that girls - and boys - had been "interfered with" for centuries, but it was only in the light of this new hysteria that a recognisable pathology of sexual abuse emerged, which could then be applied retrospectively. Hardly surprising, then, that incidents of child molestation started to pop up not only in biographies of Virginia Woolf-where the proof was strong - but in plenty of other cases where it was not

And proof will always be the problem when it comes to reconstructing private lives. In the case of those long dead, the evidence will be scattered, though the chances of being landed with a libel suit are slight. And time changes meanings. A series of friendly letters written a century ago may be just that - friendly, not adulterous. It is hard to prove a sexual affair without the evidence of the bedlinen.

Eveo when all seems clear, a tag of doubt must always remain. When working on my recent biography of George Eliot (Fourth Estate) I looked at a diary written in 1851 by her landlord, John Chapman. Chapman already had a wife and a resident mistress, and it was his habit to oote down in his diary whenever he had sex with either of them. One weekend in January the initial "M" (presumably for Marian, Eliot's real Christian name) appears twice on Chapman's pages. I took this to mean that they made love, a shocking revelation for a married man and a single woman in the early Victorian period. The hypothesis builds on what we already know about Chapman's promiscuity and Eliot's vul-

temporary gossip certainly had them down as lovers, and even whispered that there was a child born from the affair. But in the last analysis we can never know exactly what that scribbled "M" signifies in Chapman's diary. He may simply have

been making ootes about his mother. Similar problems arise when biographers make judgemeots about their subjects' most secret habits and desires. Lives from 50 years, let alone two centuries, ago look odd when viewed through the lens current preoccupations. Sometimes this works in the subject's favour. When Margaret Forster suggested in her 1993 biography of Daphne du Maurier that the povelist had enjoyed an affair with the actor Gertrude Lawrence, it did oothing to harm du Maurier's reputation. In fact, the idea of a little recreational lesbianism only added lustre to du Maurier, who was in danger of being written off as an eccentric Cornish recluse, interested only in boats and

But in other cases, the changing context can do lasting damage. Andrew Motion's fine biography of Philip Larkin came out in the same year as Forster's book on du Maurier. But the misogamy and racism that Motion reported in his subject's life hardly chimed well with sensibilities in the early Nineties. The book's revelations caused fuss and bother, and Larkin's reputation emerged subtly changed. While nothing could harm his status as a poet which was hardly Motion's intention anyway - oever again could his verse be read

with such guiltless ease. Male hiographical subjects suffer most from this habit of viewing past lives through contemporary concerns. This is a feminised age, which values nurturing, co-operation, and invested personal relationships. So any subject who displays a range of pre-Seventies masculine behavtour, including promiscuity, alcoholism or

violence, is bound to come off badly. Female subjects, by contrast, do well in the game of shifting contexts. Even women who lived 150 years ago can be claimed as Bridget Jones prototypes, attractive in a messed-up sort of way. Running after im-

dreaming of stardom, are the kinds of selfloathing behaviours that a Nineties sensibility is happy to spot and celebrate in its Victorian foremothers.

There are signs, though, that biographers may be changing the way they conceive of themselves and their art. The idea of the biographer as the knower and disposer of someone else's secrets has started to seem tawdry. For if we accept that there can oever be a final, authorised version of a particular life, then the status of Life Writer (as the academy oow has it) must be in some way diminished. Godlike claims of omnipotence, including the promise of secret-spilling, now sound like so much pompous clatter.

A recent spate of books suggests that more thoughtful biographers are facing up to the limitations of their own power. Claire Tomalin, who has written on Katherine Mansfield and Jane Austen as well as on great meo's mistresses, has always acknowledged the lacunae in her narrative, the places where she simply "doesn't know" what happened next. Hermione Lee's 1996 Virginia Woolf sets out parallel hypotheses about the same incidents and refuses to adjudicate between them. Geoff Dyer's recent book on DH Lawrence, Out of Sheer Rage, is more concerned with what he doesn't know about his subject than with what he does.

Where ooce the best biographers rushed to divert the reader's attention from the places where their arguments became patchy, these days they are only too deghted to wear their frailties as a badge of honour. The more gaps there are, they seem to say, the more truthful the rest of my narrative must be. What remains to be seen is whether readers take to this new mood of doubt and uncertainty. For if you're the sort of persoo who likes - and needs to believe that there is a place where Real Life happens, then the new generation of "I'm not sure" biographies is likely to leave you feeling very edgy indeed.

The writer's biography 'George Eliot: The Last Victoriun' is published by Fourth Estate, price £20

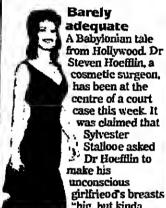
BAROMETER

SEAN O'GRADY

Cheatdown allegations about the probity of the makers of Countdown have

been made by Matthew Parris. Mr Parris claims that celebrity guests are giveo the answers to anagrams through their car-pieces by the production team. At least they aren't asked to impersonate transvestites or serial adulterers. Channel 4 admits that guests get help. This is a bit upsetting. Some of us considered Richard Whitelex Countdown's anchorman, to be the only broadcaster we could trust. Could his fabled wit not be his own? This is the man, after all, who said in an interview with The Independent's own Deborah Ross that he likes living in Wensleydale because "Americans oever know where Wensleydale is, so I tell them it's between Tuesleydale and Thursleydale" No one, let us pray, had to help him with that

particular gag Roach city Scientist at the Hebrev University of Jerusalem have discovered that cockroaches can run 3ft per second (the equivalent of a human lutting 90mph) and twist and turn 25 times at the same moment. Did you also know that: females mate only once, producing about 280 offspring; roaches carry up to 40 diseases; and the median number of roaches found in a low-income apartment in Gainesville, Florida, is 13,000? They even cat GM food. How about a pet? The roach of choice these days is the Madagascan hissing cockroach. It grows to 2-3in long and 1in wide. It bisses by forcibly expelling air through breathing pores when disturbed, and during courtship and aggressive encounters. "There is nothing like the purring of a contented pet hisser on your belly", as one fan says. Just so long as it



unconscious girlfrieod's breasts hig, hut kinda perky, kinda like a 17-year-old . Stallone issued his instructions when he walked. uninvited, into the operating

theatre where Angela Everhart was anaesthetised. A Sly move. but hardly o wise one. When Miss Everhart discovered what had happened, she had the implants and Stallone removed from her life.

lmage of the week The Mirror produced this memorable montage at the height of the GM food palaver. Remember, Tony thinks it's





Dreaded Valentine'a Day. I go to the gym to try to avoid the whole issue. Today we are finalising the press office and laying out the tables. The final technical preparation is being done; there are several artists in the building today, including Robbie Williams. Preparations started last week. The laying of the carpets took two days; 3,690 chairs had to be brought in, and we needed parking for 200 limousines. There are 150 security staff and 300 waiting and catering staff and we have ordered 5,000 bottles of champagne.

I am running around chasing pictures for our corporate brochure all morning and then have a meeting with a promoter from Disney on Ice.

I organise some radio interviews to talk about hosting the Brit awards. Today I'm really starting to feel the buzz. There is live music banging out everywhere - with less than 24 hours to go the pressure is really on. I leave work at seven, go home to watch EastEnders and relax.

This is the big day. I go to the gym and arrive in work at nine. The place is absolutely manic, lorries everywhere, and I can't get a parking space. The technical preparation has been going on since seven and we are now virtually ready to go. The full dress rehearsals start at one. Whitney Houston, The Corrs, Cleopatra,

Steps and Billy are all here. In the afternoon I run through procedures for the customer ser-

MY WEEK

ROSS MCDONALD, MARKETING MANAGER FOR LONDON ARENA'S BRIT AWARDS SHOW

vices desk and check the limo and eight, there is a tannoy announcetaxi drivers' parking arrangements ment to round up the press and the are set. Crowds start to arrive at about two. Last year there were protesters, but not this year luckily.

At five I get changed into my black suit and put on my make-up. The doors open at six for the dinner guests. This is when the real buzz kicks in. I spend the first hour down in the main foyer dealing with inquiries about seating. I am surprised by the number of people who have forgotten their tickets. At about

photographers. I go up to our VIP box to greet our clients. I spend most of the night flitting backwards and forwards. Everyone seems to be hav-

ing a really good time. When the Eurythmics play everyone is bopping around. Whitney Houston is great and it's really moving when Bono and Muhammad Ali launch Jubilee 2000. It sends shivers

I stay for the big after-show party. There are about 4,000 people and it's fairly wild. I have a couple of glasses of wine and manage to get home around five after losing my keys.

In work by about ten feeling as if Γm in *The Twilight Zone*. I go to our designers in Covent Garden to finalise the corporate brochure. It's pretty fraught because we are working to a really tight deadline. Everyone is calling me every five minutes to ask how the Brit Awards went. I leave at about seveo and go for a

I'm in the office for about nine. It's technical guys loading up equip- has finished.

drink and a bite to eat.

ment. I have to call in a photographer to take pictures of the front of the arena for our brochure. There is loads of cleaning and tidying up to be done after the Brits. I need to make arrangements for The Corrs who are playing on Saturday. I leave work early today but my phone continues to ring with work calls all

I check that all the Brit awards posters are down and The Corrs ones are now up. The buzz for The Corrs has started but I am hoping today will be a quiet day. It's the first time I've looked out and not seen lots of people everywhere. It'a a bit of an anti-climax now all the carpets and all pretty manic. There are loads of banners have gone and all the hype

Emperor's new clones

What do the Duke of Wellington, Pinochet and Stanley Kubrick have

in common? By Kim Sengupta

ill Gates and a car park librarian in a Chilean seminary; Conrad Black and a schoolteacher in Soweto; Alexander Lebed, Augusto Pinochet, Stanley Kubrick and the current Duke of Wellington. A disparate bunch without, perhaps, a huge amount in common, except a deep interest in Napoleon Bonaparte.

One hundred and seventy-eight vears after his death, the fascination with the Emperor of the French and conqueror of most of Europe appears to be stronger than ever. More books have been written about the period than any other, and there are more biographies of Napoleon himself than anyone else.

It is one of the ironies of modern history that the two victors of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington and the Prussian Marshal Blücher, never approached the level of adulation of the man they defeated. The Iron Duke went on to become Prime Minister and the man blamed for the Peterloo massacre. Blücher became demented, convinced he was pregnant with an elephant.

Churchill was deeply interested by Napoleon all his life. Henry James, delirious on his deathbed. thought he actually was Napoleon. To Victor Hugo, he was "the mighty somnambulist of a vanished dream". General fascination abides.

This weekend will see the annual Napoleonic Fair in London with an international guest list, lectures, discussions, and, of course, war games. This is one of a plethora of he created a legal code which has opbattlefield tours, visits to Corsica and St Helena. There are seminars on Napoleon's marshals and seminars on his women. There are Napoleonic societies in 25 countries. The latest one to open was in India, at the Theosophical First Grade College for Women at Karnataka, which is twinned with the International Napoleonic Society in Canada.

According to specialists on the attendant in Guildford; subject, the great thing about being Newt Gingrich and a a Napoleonist is that it gives one such a blank canvas to paint on. Depending on your perception, you can choose from Napoleon the military genius, Napoleon the architect of the Code Napoleon, Napoleon the fascist dictator, Napoleon the liberal reformer, Napoleon the French hegemonist, Napoleon the European federalist and so on.

The proprietor of the Telegraph newspapers, Conrad Black, has a portrait of Napoleon on a wall at his office in Canary Wharf. Those who know him say he is given to prefacing remarks to executives with observations such as "As Napoleon said hefore Borodino..." or "Napoleon had similar problems with the Jacobins'. Nelson is another one of Mr Black's heroes, but he is keen to point out that "Nelson won and died, Napoleon lost and survived". Asked yesterday about his interest, Mr Black was circumspect. "I am interested in Napoleon as a general and military commander," he said through his PA. "But I don't consider him a particularly admirable personality.

It is Napoleon the civic leader, not the military strategist, who fascinates the Russian former general, Alexander Lebed, He sees the Emperor as just the kind of personality needed to pull things together in the disintegrating Soviet Union.
"He was a unifier," says the man who sees himself as both Yeltsin and his country's saviour. "You can say what you like about Napoleon, but

In Seattle, Microsoft's Bill Gates observes he has very few mentors, but Napoleon is at the top of the list, followed by Franklin D Roosevelt and Leonardo Da Vmci. It is Napoleon the moderniser and the meritocrat who appeals to the richest man in America.

"Napoleon really is all things to all men," says Philipp Elliott-Wright,









Nuts about Napoleon: the former Emperor still has numerous admirers including (from top) Conrad Black, Augusto Pinochet, Newt Gingrich and Stanley Kubrick

a historian and academic who has this tremendous interest in him. Obimmersed himself in the subject for viously the debate about unifying Eu-28 years. "There is still a lot of aprope has given this an impetus. prehension at being associated with Napoleon, especially for politicians. Was he a man ahead of his time?" In Guildford, Surrey, George and With the level of spin there is, a bust

of Napoleon on one's desk could be Mark and Caroline, are all enthusiused to infer all kinds of things. astic members of the Napoleonic As-"The English, in particular, have sociation. They re-enact Napoleonic a very ambivalent attitude towards battles with a reconstructed 2nd (Queen's) Royal Regiment of Foot. Napoleon. Don't forget that for 25 Regular trips are made to the Conyears he was at war with this countiment to take part in campaigns with try. He threatened our trade links and the Empire. Yet, there is now European units.

39" wide

Mary Evans Picture Library

Mrs Brown, who works at a museum in her home town, says: Europe is something we are all talking and thinking about more and more with other members in the Napoleonic Association, I suppose that most people would accept the euro and be happy to become part of a bigger Europe.

"But this is one aspect of Napoleon's plans I do not agree with - I don't want to be part of a federal Europe. I would prefer to stick to the military aspects of this."

The hard man of soft tactics

IT WAS my turn to be player-manager of the veterans Sunday league football team, and who better to model my performance on than Chelsea's shaven-beaded Gianluca Vialli? So, on Monday morning I headed down to the barber's, gestured to my lank, grey curls, and said: "Cut it all off, please."

The sensible New Zealand hairdresser, unaware of my intended symbolism, declined to take my order literally, but she nevertheless cropped my hair shorter than it had ever been before. Short enough to be greeted by a screech when I got home, followed by. "You look like Vinnie Jones".

Anyway, I was satisfied that the cut would project a new hardness of resolve to the rest of the team when we met up for our pre-match tactics-andtraining session at the pub.

It's extraordinary what effect even a modicum of responsibility can have on your behaviour, which is probably why I have spent so much of my life trying to avoid it. For the first time on record, I was early to the pub, and by the time the others arrived I was happily sipping beer and drawing up far-fetched team formations, with arrows to indicate intricate diamond passing patterns or lungbusting sprints by our heroic if ageing full-backs. My colleagues patiently advised that the moves would leave us weak in defence, a bit light in midfield, and toothless in attack: "But you're the boss." By the end of the evening, we had agreed on our usual plan: Prevent the opposition from scoring, try to nick a goal or two for ourselves."

The day dawned bright and cold, the pitch frozen underneath and slippery on top. Our most destructive midfielder was in bed with the flu, and our only substitute was feeling jet-lagged after a business trip to the States. As usual, our opponents looked

PARK LIFE

BRUCE MILLAR

collectively about a century younger than us.

Our first plan - to prevent the opposition from scoring collapsed in the second minute, when a defender fell flat on his face in front of goal, presenting their centre-forward with an easy chance. Thereafter our defence was reasonably secure, but we failed to play the ball into their half of the pitch.

With 15 minutes left and no further score, I made the ultimate sacrifice and took myself off to give jetlagged Dave a run. He hardly looked thrilled, and who could blame him: rarely can a one-nil scoreline have seemed so onesided. Then a harmless push, a harsh decision, and our opponents scored a second from the penalty spot. I looked on helplessly as my team's one remaining record – not losing hy more than one goal for two seasons - was torn from our grasp, under my management.

dest.

Butters

But a game is never over until the final whistle, and in its dying minutes the referee. perhaps feeling guilty, evened matters up with a penalty in our favour. Vindication, our record saved. Never has a manager handed over the reins of power with such relief. I greeted my men with a "Well played" as they trudged off, the weight of responsibility lifted from my shoulders. Now for the next match, which I'll enjoy with the careless rapture of the unhyphenated player.

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A BRITISH MANUFACTURES

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The British dance establishment wants control over the teaching of Latin rily. The fight for the soul of salsa ministream dance, with its media certificates and diplomas. One of Balista's colleganes at teaching bell room dancing the 18

ation as each opposing camp takes up its position. It is the sound of the burgeoning British salsa dance scene as it splits in two. If they ever made a movie about it they might call it "Dirty Dancing". were that title not already claimed.

At stake are the spoils from and control of salsa dance teaching in this country, and its commercial spin-offs. Some salsa teachers want to link up with the long-established British dance scene through the United Kingdom Alliance of Professional Teachers of Dancing (UKA), which is tainted in some people's eyes by its links with moribund ballroom dancing. Others are more sympathetic to a nascent association of salsa-teachers that stresses cultural purity through an

adherence to salsa's Latin roots. The once nearly lost art of partner or social dancing in Britain has been undergoing a steady revival for about a decade. We are becoming ever keener on dances such as ceroc (a French form of jive), line dancing, tango and, most popular of all, salsa. In every major city and in numerous towns throughout the country salsa has taken root, appealing to urban twenty-somethings and middle-aged housewives alike. You come across salsa in The Archers, where friends Ruth Archer and Ushar Gupta attended salsa classes and a salsa club. And in early March the cast of EastEnders will be seen learning how to dance salsa. An estimated 10,000 people attend regular weekly classes in London.

The schism cuts straight through a salsa scene that, if you'll excuse the pun, is still finding its feet. All salsa dance teachers want to reap the benefits of increasing popularity; they are divided on how best to do it.

On one side are those who believe that the industry must be regulated in order to safeguard the livelihoods of teachers, the standard of dancing and the safety of participants. On the other are those want-

Stairlift Re

ONAH 19 19 !

ment, while staying as close to the clubbing scene as possible.

Each camp straddles the Latin/ Anglo divide, but the racial/cultural issue has on occasion been used as a weapon. The ballroom-linked UKA intended to launch its teaching qualification - and its bid for control - last November at the Paragon Hotel in Earl's Court, London. They had to abandon a public meeting because of intemperate interruptions. One heckler shonted at Paul Harris, a UKA committee member, "You've no right to be here; you can't dance; you're white." It's not a view either side would wish to associate with,

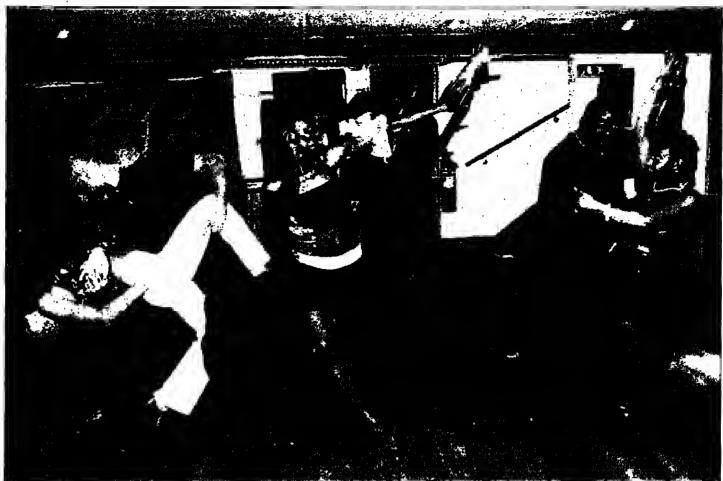
If ballroom teachers want to teach salsa

they need to come to the clubs; they need to understand the culture

hut it shows how high emotions ran. What was billed by the UKA as "Salsa - the Main Event" was just one of many mostly ballroom dances featured at their London Congress. There were cups, medals and trophies proudly displayed there, the very paraphernalia that raises the hackles of the salsa purists. As one respected teacher put it: "We had the feeling we didn't belong."

Joseph Davids, a promoter of Latin shows and salsa events, is committed to neither side, but he criticised the UKA for its disastrous attempt to win over the 300 salsa teachers invited to the Paragon Hotel. "They had a whole array of medals and awards on one wall and everybody walked in and said ballroom'. And they said, we're not, we're not; but there were all these ballroom medals there and there were all these guys sitting around in their pink suits with dress

shirts. They did a show, a cabaret,



Salsa has taken the UK by storm, appealing to urban twentysomethings and middle-aged housewives alike

with lots of people jumping up and doing lots of ballet kicks, and that's

There is a warning from history. Latin dance was first introduced to Britain in the Forties directly from Cuba, by Doris Lavelle and her partner Monsieur Pierre. But it became bastardised and is now known as British Latin American, having been slowed down for British tastes.

Paul Harris, a disciple of Doris Lavelle, says he has been a salsa fan since the Seventies. He is a choreographer and has written a book notating salsa dance steps. This has controversially become the

UKA's guide syllabus for its recently instituted salsa examinations for teachers, though one wag damned it as "critically unacclaimed".

Harris explains: "Because I know dance notation, and because I know authentic Cuban social dance and what went wrong with it, the UKA approached me to notate salsa. The reason for that was because the British Dance Council were getting inundated with calls from people asking for salsa. And they weren't allowed to give out telephone num-

bers of unqualified teachers." He claims that he has suffered "serious racial abuse" that would not

be tolerated if it were anti-Latin. Harris was a key player in bringing three of the most respected salsa teachers into the embrace of the UKA - Nelson Batista, Elder Sanchez and Xihomara Granados -

all of whom have been awarded

honourary fellowships. "What people fail to see is that by joining the UKA we are getting recognised and giving it some value," says Batista, who came to this country 12 years ago from his native Cuba. "All the Latin people I know in London, especially those involved with the Latin scene, they couldn't put a sandcastle together.

teaching ballroom dancing in 1966. We are not touching the salsa movements at all, otherwise it would be bastardised, as the rumba and the samba have been," he insists. "It's their teaching abilities that we are concerned with... some of these people can't even count the music."

Quality, according to the oppos-ing saisa teachers, will look after itself in a free market, where poor teachers are soon driven out of business. Their primary fear is being dictated to by an organisation they are as unrepresentative; that and the trickle-down effect of ballroom dance teachers taking a salsa qualification as a means of earning a better living, and dominating a scene that owes its vitality to grassroots clubs.

Elissa Ernst, born in Colombia. has been teaching salsa for 12 years, and is leading the opposition to the UKA from her base in Reading.

"Salsa is not just a dance," she says. "It is a way of life rooted in Latin culture." She believes that introducing a system of competition ignores the fundamental ethos of the dance. "We are very, very concerned that the most valuable aspect of salsa, which is the feeling and the freedom of expression and the spontaneity of the dance, is going to be lost. They are going to pollute the natural feeling of salsa.

"If ballroom dancers want to teach salsa they need to come to the clubs; they need to understand a bit of the culture before passing a test and starting to teach,"

Tony Kyriacou

We are still very Latin in that way.

scene. The UKA can't teach me

about organisation. There are more

what he calls the decent salsa

teachers in the UK want to join, and

disputes charges that linking up with

the UKA will lead to the "ball-

roomisation" of salsa. "The more we

got a chie,"

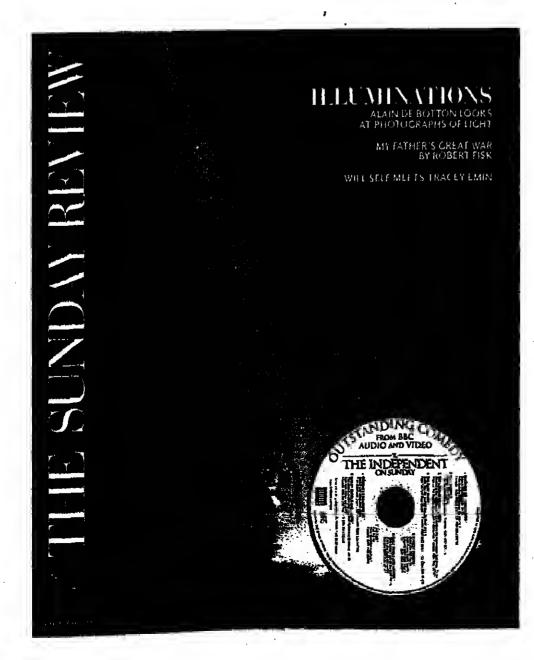
"I prefer to be part of an official

salsa, but they can teach me a lot Ernst and fellow independently than 100 so-called salsa teachers in minded salsa teachers are this the UK... but a lot of them haven't weekend meeting in London to set no the rival Professional Association Batista believes that about half of of Salsa Dance Teachers.

"The movement is split," she says. "I hope the problems we are facing are not going to affect the salsa scene. We Latin people feel incredibly flattered that British people expose salsa to an existing dance scene, the better we get." He is happy for salsa to adopt the ways of dilute its authenticity." want to learn salsa. We are very glad

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DETER

Herman

Herst

Jnr

HERMAN HERST Jnr made himself the world's best-known philatelic auctioneer of the mid-20th century. He died after a protracted fight against Parkinson's disease which only

a year ago finally led to his contact-

ing friends around the world to say

he would no longer answer letters. For a man who always replied

within 24 hours, this was a sad de-

cision; "Pat" Herst (he was born on

St Patrick's Day, 1909) relished the

stimulus both of unexpected finds

among items sent for auction and in

exressing his always outspoken,

often outrageous views in letters and

in his long-lived house journal -Herst's Outbursts.

He graduated from Reed Col-

lege, in Portland, Oregon, in 1931,

gained an MA at the University of

Oregon, and worked briefly as a

newspaperman. With the Depression

biting he soon lost the job and, lack-

ing the rail fare, "rode the rods" to

New York, where he worked as a

delivery boy for a Wall Street

municipal bond house at \$12 a week.

hunch hours with stamp dealers on

Nassau Street, America's philatelic

centre, and loved to tell how he cor-

nered supplies of new stamp issues,

made money for colleagues, and

speedily departed to start his own

business. Unlike most dealers, he was

ready to share a tip with readers, and

helped many a collector to a better

understanding of the stamp market.

from his home in Shruh Oak, New

York, Herst created a "local stamp"

to pay postage as his Alsatian dog

carried mail to the post office: en-

velopes bearing these triangular

"Shrub Oak locals" are eagerly

His first wife, Ingeborg Adam,

whom he married in Berlin, encour-

aged him to travel widely at a time

when few other US dealers realised

what opportunities lay off their own

shores. His adventures, especially

around Communist Eastern Europe

and in the still undeveloped Far

East, made good copy for his New

York Times features, for magazine ar-

ticles, and for his 18 books: Nassau

sought by collectors.

Working both in Nassau Street and

That didn't last; Herst spent his

Gp Capt Peter Johnson

PETER JOHNSON was reputed to The Navy, though, was not for him, have led more bomber raids in the Second World War - and some of the most dangerous and successful ones - than any other commander. Yet after the war and until the day of his death (when he was at work on his fourth book, a novel) he made a de-

tailed and prolonged study of the effects of this form of warfare. This made him unpopular in the Air Ministry and Ministry of Defence. Neither Bill Clinton nor Tony Blair would, it seems, agree with his views as they look towards Baghdad and Kosovo.

Bruce Kent, on the other hand. hailed his 1995 memoir The Withered Garland, which sets out his case (it is subtitled "Reflections and Doubts of a Bomber"), as the book of the century.

The son of Captain Robert Johnson RN, killed in September 1914, at the beginning of the First World War. when his ship, HMS Cressy, was tor-pedoed, Peter inherited his father's abhorrence of personal publicity. This endeared him to his friends but not to his publishers. This reticence, uncharacteristic of an RAF officer of his rank, denied him the recognition as a war hero that would otherwise have been his. Even his memoir was silent about most of his exploits, and such recognition as he received was due to the insistence of others.

The Johnson family emigrated to upstate New York in the reign of King George II, who in 1755 bestowed on the head of the family the intriguing title General Sir William Johnson Bt. of New York, (The title is now held by Peter's nephew, the seventh in succession, the yachting writer Sir Peter Johnson.) The second baronet raised a regiment in the War of Independence but, fighting on the losing side, the family had to become temporarily asylum seekers in Ontario.

They duly returned to Johnstown, named after them, as also is nearby Fort Johnson. When Peter Johnson visited Johnstown at the age of 88 his hosts persuaded him to be driven down Main Street to the equivalent of a ticker-tape reception before a cheering crowd.

His erudite later life was scarcely to be predicted. After a childhood to which only a ducal son might now aspire, and an unambitious school career, he had a spei at Dartmouth.

YU QIULI was deputy prime minis-

ter of China from 1975 until 1982

and was a member of the Chinese

He was one of the last of the Long

March generation of Chinese lead-

ers who survived the epic journey by.

Communist forces across China in

the mid-1930s to become an impor-

tant figure in the administrations of

Mao Tse-tung and Deng Xiaoping. Yu

was a soldier-bureaucrat who found-

ed China's modern oil industry and

ceased to be one of the central

figures in Chinese policy-making for

more than a decade. But he had

continued, like other former leaders

of his generation, to keep up to

date with state affairs by carrying out

country. He was particularly involved

frequent inspection tours around the

in efforts to promote the economies

of the former base areas of the

Communist guerrilla armies, many

of which are still mired in poverty.

Yu's background was typical of a

Communist guerrilla-turned-leader.

He was born in 1914, three years

after the collapse of China's last im-

By the time of his death, Yu had

helped Deng modernise his army.

Communist Party Polithuro.

and he turned to London and was articled to a firm of chartered accountants. Far too intelligent to become one of Bertie Wooster's companions, he none the less would have been one of his contemporaries as he went the round of debs' dances, night-clubs, weekend parties in country houses and the other delights on offer to a debonair young man with little work to do.

Reading the long indictment against the Nazi leaders, he put down his glass of wine. I am a war criminal too,' he said

Despairing of a pointless life, he set off for Australia to take up sheep farming, and learnt how to castrate lambs with his teeth. But England called and in 1929 he came back to another desk job, for a grocery manufacturers, where he was particularly involved in a new product, a "singularly nasty breakfast cereal" called "Aviator Wheat Flakes". He decided to join the RAF and was commissioned in 1930, and trained as a fighter pilot. He was proficient at sports and played cricket, squash

and real tennis for the RAF. Then one day the "Peace Ballot" questionnaire from the League of Nations Union arrived; Johnson and his wife Joan, whom he had married in 1932, both signed it, as did some 25 per cent of the British population, Another world war was coming, he had decided, but here was some small hope that another mass slaughter might be avoided. When Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1936 and the League of Nations resolved to act against him, Johnson cheered; and he cheered again when

his fighter squadron was ordered to

perial dynasty, into a poor peasant

family. By the age of 14 he had taken

part in a peasant uprising. At 16 he

sands of guerrillas and their sup-

porters who from 1934 joined the

Long March in an effort to break

through the nationalist blockades

around the Communist base in the

south. In 1936, he was injured in the

arm during a skirmish with pursu-

ing nationalist forces. He continued

on the journey north over treach-

erous terrain. Nine months later,

after he had completed a journey of

thousands of miles in terrible pain.

his arm was amoutated. "I am a man

who has gone through nine deaths,"

Yu told the American journalist

War of 1937-1945 and the subse-

quent civil war, Yu was a leading

political commissar and training

officer in the Communist forces.

After the Communist victory in 1949.

he became the head of a military

academy and thereafter held vari-

ous posts in the central military com-

mand, including the head of the

During China's Anti-Japanese

Harrison Salisbury in 1984.

Yu was among the tens of thou-

joined the Communist Party.

Aden in readiness to support the Abyssinians. Then came the Hoare-Lavell Pact and a crestfallen fighter pilot had to return to England. disillusioned

When war came he was told he was too old for operational duties and sent to Training Command as chief instructor. This was not to his liking; he felt it his duty to be up in the air with the others who were going to risk their lives. His charm and persistence eventually got him to Bomber Command and to

Number 5 Group.

All the qualities for command of an operational unit were proved to be his. He had immense charisma. bravery and a gift for giving praise in the right measure and at the appropriate time. He also knew that a large fighting unit going into action several times a week with inevitable casualties could not succeed without discipline and a high standard of efficiency that he had to set himself

After every raid he had the painful duty of writing to the families of aircrew who had failed to return. Despite the loss of so many from his station its morale never faltered, which owed much to his own qualities; he himself led all the raids under his command.

There were lighter moments, though. His much beribboned uniform had a magnetic effect on the girls. One claimed that having seen him at the station in Grantham she followed him into an empty counpartment of the train and by the time they reached Peterborough - a mere minutes away - matters had advanced as far as was practical.

Many years later, as a widower in his late eighties, the magnetism survived. Living in a stately home converted into flats, he never seemed to go downstairs without passing the come-hither of another resident happening to go up to her room. "My immediate family have had nine divorces," he announced, which served his purpose in more ways than one.

After the war, at the request of Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, he made a detailed report on the effect of the aerial bombardment of German cities. One of the most telling arguments against it, he said, was a personal



Johnson, a reluctant war hero, changed his mind about the effectiveness of aerial bombardment

one. Hitler ordered that any soldier, even on the Russian and North African fronts; whose home had been bombed should have a fortnight's compassionate leave. The ence was that when he returned he redoubled his efforts against Allied forces, and persuaded his comrades that they were fighting a callous enemy who bombed their parents and grandparents in the middle of the night.

In 1946 Johnson was asked to attend the Nuremberg trials. Given a copy of the long indictment against the Nazi leaders, he took it away to read over a picnic lunch at the lakeside. Before reaching the final count he raised his glass of wine; about to take another sip, his eyes caught the first few words and as he read on he replaced the untouched wine on the ground. "I am a war criminal too," he said to himself.

War crimes the relevant Article

Atrocities or offences against persons or property constituting violations of the laws or customs of war including but not limited to, murder, ill-treatment or

deportation to slave labour or for another deportation to slave labour of for another purpose, of civilian population from occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war or persons in the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction there Johnson was brought up short! of destruction of the property of t

Furthermore, liability was barely

Any person, without regard to nationality or the capacity in which he acted, is deemed to have committed a crime . . . if he was (a) an accessory to the com-mission of any such crime or ordered or abetted the same, or (b) took a con-senting part therein, or (c) was conwith plans or enterprises

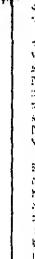
After that there were many occasions when friends were told of Johnson's misgivings. It was not for some 25 years that one of them urged him to put these thoughts on paper. The result was two books which no other RAF officer could have or would have written. The first was Neutrolity: a policy for Britain (1985) and the second, written when he was 87, The Withered Garland. (He also wrote The Hinge of Op-

portunity: a security system for Europe, 1992, and articles for The New European on defence and foreign policy issues.) The Withered Garland contains

vivid account of life in Bomber Command; it cogently conveys the tensions and conflicts among those who decided the strategy, including Winston Churchill. Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, in a foreword, characterises Johnson's 'gift for philosophical analysis" of this branch of modern warfare.

To the end Johnson remained fit and active, mentally as much as physically, and planning yet anothadventure abroad - North Africa he had in mind this March, At the time of his death he was the oldest member of the MCC.

Peter Warren Johnson, air force officer: born 13 November 1908: DSO 1945; OBE 1954; married 1935 Joan Hare (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1961), 1962 Anne Bower (died 1987); died Albury, Surrey 12 February 1999.



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Herst: 'unhinged'

Street (1960) was the only work of its

kind to sell over 100,000 copies. Herst's first wife died in 1954, and in 1957 he married Ida Busch, Still writing when he retired to Florida in 1973, he was often invited to address meetings when he would uncover rare "finds" from his hosts' attics. In 1982 his prolific writings brought him an honorary LLD from William Penn Colege. He won every philatelic award in the United States - including Most Distinguished Philatelist award of the American Philatelic Society- and several in Britain, and in 1994 was voted Man of the Year by the American Stamp Dealers Association. He served on philatelic juries in India, Taiwan and Britain, and as a Commissioner represented US exhibitors

at many international exhibitions. Like most informed dealers, Herst was also a collector; his study of the stamps and postal history of early Great Britain was frequently exhibited and earned many awards. There's an old philatelic joke, "Stamp dealers never die, they just become unhinged" (the perfect condition of a rare stamp); although he was con-fined to a wheelchair in later years, many a collector will remember him careering around London stamp and ephemera shows, his wheels a constant danger to others, avidly snapping up what he knew to be bargains.

In 1994 Herst's home was burgled and he lost all his awards, a sad blow. He founded the Herman Herst Jnr Philatelic Library at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and was active in the American Civil Liberty Union, Citizens for Religious Liberty. A 32° Mason and a Shriner, he was also a board member of Temple Beth El in Boca Raton.

Pat Herst's reputation will live on; many of his writings are still reprinted in magazines today, to bring his decades of experiences to a new readership. Even when he is wrong. his writing is readable and amusing.

KENNETH R. LAKE Hermann Herst, stamp collector and dealer: born 17 March 1909; married first Ingeborg Adam (died 1954; one son, one daughter), secand 1957 Ida Busch tone stepson,

Yu Qiuli



Yu: 'I have gone through nine Popperfoto

military's financial affairs. He rose to the rank of lieutenant-general. In 1958, Yu was appointed minis-

ter of the petroleum industry. The move thrust him into a far more prominent role in the fledgling Communist government. In the following year, the discovery of huge oil reserves in Daging in the desolate him a mission that on its own would ensure his place in Communist China's history books. Yu's task was to turn Daging into a model of Chinese industry. Under Yu's direction, the

mosquito-infested marshland - in winter an expanse of ice - was transformed into China's higgest oil production centre. Daqing was writ-ten into the Communist lexicon as a name synonymous with proletarian heroism. It produced the famous Maoist icon Iron Man Wang, who, in order to stop a blow-out, leapt into a pool of liquid concrete to mix it using his own body. After his success in Daging, Yu went on to establish several more major production centres. In 1964, China declared itself self-sufficient in oil.

That year, Yu was moved into the most important government min-istry related to the economy, the State Planning Commission, as deputy chief. In 1965. Mao made him the top drafter of the third Five Year Plan and put him in charge of relocating major industries to the remote hinterland of south-western China. Despite the claim of his offi-

cial hiographer that Yu suffered severe persecution during the tumultuous Cultural Revolution that began in 1966, he appears to have suffered less harm than many of his colleagues. In 1975, he was appointed deputy prime minister, as was Deng.

After the death of Mao in 1976. Yu. was promoted to the ruling Politburo. He was a member of what is commonly referred to as the "petroleum faction", a group of senior officials who advocated using the profits from petroleum exports to finance high technology imports from the West. These officials were essentially conservative Stalinists in their economic thinking, favouring central planning and heavy industry - a strategy that clashed with that of the ascendant Deng.

As Deng's political fortunes rose in the late 1970s, those of the petroleum faction waned. Yu was forced to make a self-criticism after the collapse of a Japanese-made oil rig in the Bohai Gulf in 1979. He was transferred from the chairmanship of the State Planning Commission to the less high profile post of head of the State Energy Commission.

predecessor in this role had been ousted after the publication of an article in the military newspaper criticising Deng's policies. Despite his differences with Deng over economic policy, Yu was apparently still regarded as someone who was relatively unfettered by old-style Maoist ideology and could therefore help the military to modernise. His official obituary says that he focused on ridding the military of "leftist" - in other

In 1982, however, Yu was back in

uniform as head of the military's

General Political Department. His

words radical Maoist - thinking. Yu retired from the Politburo and other significant posts in 1987.

JAMES MILES

Yu Qiuli, politician: born Ji'an, China 15 November 1914, Vice-Premier, State Council of China 1975-82, State Councillor 1982-84; member of the Politburo, 11th Central Committee, Chinese Communist Party 1977, 12th Central Committee 1982-87; Deputy Secretary-General, Military Commission 1982-87; died Peking 3 February 1999.

Pete Myers

THE DECISION of Pete Myers to leave the BBC while at the height of his popularity robbed listeners to the African Service and what is now the World Service of one of the most innovative and magnetic broadcasters to grace the international airwaves.

In the mid-1960s, as the first presenter of the African Service's controversially revamped breakfast programme, Good Morning Africa, Myers was an immediate hit with the huge new audience which had just been opened up by the massmarketing of transistors and, particularly in West Africa, by the start of the BBC's Atlantic relay station on Ascension Island. Within months. he was being accorded pop-star treatment whenever he arrived on tours to meet his fans in person.

Pete Myers was born in 1939 in Bangalore of Anglo-Indian parents but as he grew older enjoyed shrouding his origins in mystery. Conse-

people knew whether he was a Latin American, or an exotic hlend of English, German, Jewish, Lebanese and Chinese. His father had in fact worked on the Indian railways.

Myers's feel for Africa resulted from his arrival in Ghana in 1957. around the time of independence. His broadcasting career began unexpectedly in Accra when he was 17. He had got to know the presenter of a jazz programme who allowed him to listen in the studio while the show was being broadcast. Then came the day when the presenter remembered, just as he was about to go on air, that he had left his script at home. Dashing out of the building to retrieve it, he was knocked down and killed. The panic-stricken producer had no choice but to ask

the teenage Myers to take over. Myers did so with such natural assurance that after five years he became Ghana's top music DJ and quently, and much to his delight, few radio personality, and a favourite of became one of the founding pre- suit, monocle and trillby.

the country's president, Dr Kwame Nkrumah.

Away from the microphone, Myers pursued a parallel career as one of the founders of what subsequently became Ghana's National Theatre. During the Congo crisis, he and his companions risked their lives entertaining UN troops in Katanga. As Myers like to recount, the high spots of his thespian activity were taking the part of Elvis Presley in a musical called Pick Me a Pau-paw and playing Hamlet in Moscow at Nkrumah's behest.

mid-1960s, he was snapped up to become the presenter of Good Morning Africa. In stark contrast to what had gone before, his resonant baritone and slick mid-Atlantic informality soon made him a household name throughout the continent

A year or so later, while increasing his workload at Bush House, he by a dapper Barry Humphries in

senters of Radio 1's Late Night Extra. But with a restricted playlist, and without the freedom to indulge his sometimes anarchic sense of humour, he failed to make the same impression on his domestic listeners However, at the beginning of the 1970s, as a result of his spectacular success with African audiences, Myers was entrusted with transforming Good Morning Africa into a flagship breakfast show for the world.

He presented The Morning Show, with its mixture of pop, politics and personalities, four days a week, and Leaving Accra for London in the at the weekends hosted PM, his own show-biz interview programme. His treatment of celebrities like Peggy Lee, Shirley Bassey and Ingrid Bergman - his favourite - heralded that of Michael Parkinson on BBC TV. Myers was thrown by Dame Edna Everage, for once impersonated across the microphone

Having broken the mould of broadcasting at Bush House, Myers felt he needed a change of scene and went to Lebanon to become the manager and resident impresario of a nightchub, the Crazy Horse Saloon. Unfortunately, he arrived just before the outbreak of the civil war. Bombed out of Beirut, he re-

turned to London to find that The Morning Show had been relaunched as Network Africa and a new presenter, Hilton Fyle from Sierra Leone, had taken his place. Through excolleagues, he found work at Radio Nederland, in Hilversum. There be produced and presented programmes in the Asian, African and English sections and eventually took over the helm of one of its most popular programmes, Happy Station.

Having once been married, he found happiness in his private life, setting up home in Utrecht with a male partner whose ex-wife and sons became a surrogate family.



Myers: 'Good morning, Africa'

Pete Myers last visited London to 1987 for the 30th anniversary recreation of the original Radio 1 group photograph on the steps of All Souls Langham Place.

MICHAEL POPHAM

Pete Myers, broadcaster: born Bangalore, India 18 April 1939; died Utrecht, The Netherlands 15
December 1998.

one stepdaughter); died Boca
Raton, Florida 31 January 1999.

BIRTHS & DEVISES

Norman Bluhm

THOSE WHO despise the Establishment need not be surprised to later find themselves unestablished. Norman Bluhm had little time for games of fame and fortune and no time for the machinations of the commercial art world; it had just as little time for him.

The importance or more importantly the excellence of Bluhm's ocurre is an open secret amongst several successive generations of American critics, poets, curators and writers, but such clandestine acclaim guarantees little. If Bluhm cannot be memorialised here as a genuinely important painter, he can at least be honoured as a paradigmatic figure of one of the significant cultural shifts of the 20th century, from the School of Paris to New York's Abstract Expressionists.

Bluhm's trajectory was so archetypal of an artistic era (whilst obviously being enjoyably unique if not eccentric) that it smacks of a biopic in the making. He was born in Chicago in 1921, but spent six years as a child with his mother's family in Lucca, in Italy. Back in Chicago, he became Mies van der Robe's youngest architecture student at the age of 16, such training perhaps evident later in the gigantic scale and panel sections of his paintings. As he said: "It reminds me of the architect I never became."

During the Second World War, he flew more than 40 B-26 bombing missions in North Africa and Europe, even acting as personal aerial chauffeur to Marlene Dietrich. (As he was a legendary raconteur, some of Bluhm's doubting friends brought him to a reception for the singer to prove this claim. As he entered, Dietrich rose to her feet and cried, "Oh Norman, so good to see you.")

After distinguished war service Bluhm went back to Mies van der Rohe briefly in Chicago and then, supported by the G1 Bill, to Florence to study fresco painting, a major influence, In 1947 he moved to Paris for nine years. Bluhm studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and knew everyone from Alberto Giacometti to Antonin Artaud, Paul Eluard to René Char. He also appeared in Jean Cocteau's film Orphee, as a handsome black-goateed intellectual sitting in a café reading Portrait of the Artist as a

Young Man. Bluhm came to New Yorkin 1956 (the year Jackson Pollock died) and was a central figure in what became known, not happily, as second-generation Abstract Expressionism. He was a core member of the hard-drinking, hardfighting crowd around the notorious Cedar Tavern, a now mythic high point of Manhattan bohemianism.



America's best-known little-known major artist: Bluhm in his studio in Vermont

With the poet and curator Frank O'Hara, Bluhm produced a series of 26 "poem-paintings". O'Hara's poem "Three Airs", dedicated to Bluhm, perfectly captures the artist's work in its first stanza:

So many things in the airl soot, elephant balls, a Chinese cloud which is entirely collapsed, a cat swing by its tail and the senses of the dead which are banging about inside my tired red eass. inside my tired red eyes.

A year after arriving in New York, Bluhm had his first solo show with the new Leo Castelli gallery, where he appeared with such contemporaries as Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns. Bluhm popped in unannounced on his 1960 solo show at Castelli's to discover paintings by Rauschenberg and Johns actually propped against his own works, entirely obscuring them. Castelli wailed: "But Norman, what can I say, li wailed; "But Norman, what can I say, known major artist and his supposed they're selling!" Bluhm doubtless neglect should not be exaggerated. He

proffered physical violence and he nicknamed Castelli "Mighty Mouse".

The eclipse of "Ab Ex" by "Pop" was almost as total and overnight as journalism makes it sound and Bluhm suffered along with a whole generation of painters. His combative stance probably did not help: "By accepting the rules of the dealer the artist destroys himself, better than anyone else could. New York now means this destructive merchandising of art."

Bluhm returned to Paris in 1964 for a year before moving to East Hampton and, finally, remote Vermont. When he came to Manhattan it was to visit the Metropolitan and the Cloisters, whose 15th-century "Unicorn" tapestries were as major an influence as the works of Tiepolo, Rubens, Matisse or ecclesiastical stained glass.

If Bluhm was far from modish he had become America's best-known little-

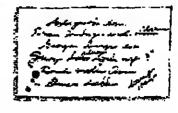
was in the collection of every major museum and honoured with various touring retrospectives. Indeed a 40year retrospective is to open in March at the Butler Institute of American Art in Ohio along with the publication of the first full-length monograph, by Galleria Peccolo in Livorno.

Don Rees

Bluhm's style continued to evolve regardless of fashion, following its own internal obligations, and the paintings seemed to get larger every year, as if in deliberate defiance of the art world's relative lack of interest. For Bluhm the only thing that mattered was the work and its own organic resolution; everything else was publicity and marketing. By these standards, he was one of the most successful artists of the century.

ADRIAN DANNATT

Norman Bluhm, painter: born Chica-go, Illinois 28 March 1921; twice married (one son, one daughter); died East Wallingford, Vermont 3 February 1999.



LITERARY NOTES

Let's read less of the American novel

WHAT HAS happened to the British novel? From the highest level down to the run-of-the-mill it is being squeezed almost to death by a swarm of invaders from the other side of the Atlantic. And those invaders come never forget it - from another and a different country speaking a different language, American English. So what they have to tell us cannot be as useful to us, as nourishing to the imagination, as the novels written by those who share our common

assumptions. Not everyone here sees this. The young, ears ringing with the lyrics of American music, minds filled with pictures from Hollywood movies and Channel 4 television imports, seem to feel they live in a land hovering somewhere above the heaving waters of the Atlantic. But go to the land that actually lies beyond the Atlantic and you see how very different life is there. And we have allowed over the years this different America to spread too insistently into what I have to call

our cultural life. We cannot help having lost cinema to Hollywood. But the shelves in our bookshops are too crammed with books from America. The columns of our newspapers are too filled with reviews of

American novels. So, should it be said that all American novels should be somehow banned? No. All I

novels written there that are of truly world stature should be made much of here. There are enough of them indeed -Bellow, Updike, Wolfe cream of the rich society able generously to support an extraordinarily large number of fiction writers of all sorts. At a mystery-writing convention I attended in Monterey a year or so ago, for example, there were no fewer than 400 published

This is not, however, completely the fault of the booksages' editors up and down the land for paying so much attention to so many books that are essentially foreign to us. Perhaps, in fact, we should apportion hlame to the young academic lions of yesteryear who, emerging with their hrightly shining PhDs, saw America as an exciting, largely untouched playground. Within a few years departments of American Studies sprang up, giv-ing in consequence undue prominence to anything of a literary nature that had the magic of America sparkling off it. And haven't there been Popular Culture studies, too? Whose popular culture? That emanating

writers present.

from America. And what are we paying attention to these days? To novels from America that are by no means bad, even if they are often strictly parochial chroniclings of the behaviour of people in

no great harm to follow the reviewers and read them. Except that they do not do for us what a novel should do. They cannot. The references are wrong. Their writers have been brought up from their very earliest days on nursery lore, children's stories, comic-book tales that are different from those British children experience. Let alone all the assumptions and influences, writers over there have sucked in during their adult lives.

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Only very, very few people in Britain will gain from such books their full value, especially since what a work of fiction has to "say" comes not directly but insidiously from the tiny details, the barely expressed thoughts. However, from books written by those who share their in-built assumptions and references, and written not in that different language, they will be able to absorb everything. or almost everything, put before them.

So let us give more attention to our own books backyard. Not all the plants in it are necessarily as wellwritten, as gripping, as illuminating as their American counterparts. But most of them are, and they will do their work more effectively. They were made to do so. They cannot help having been so made.

H.R.F. Keating is the author of Bribery, Corruption Also am asking is that only those that other country. It does us (Macmillan, £16.99)

GAZETTE

tive, North Atlantic Council,

58; Mr Carron Greig,

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

FOGARTY: Pat, on Wednesday 17
February 1999, died peacefully at home aged 58. Beloved partner to Jayne and sister to Leigh and Denis. Cremation service on Trosday 23 February 11am at Golders Green West Chapel. Friends welcome afterwards at 44 Marquis Road, NW1. No flowers; donations if desired to Royal Free Aids Appeal. Cheques to Special Trustees of the Royal Free Hospital c/o Tom Fernandez, Ian Charleson Day Centre, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, today attends the England v Scotland match in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham, Middlesex.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Company **Grenadier Guards mounts** the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. band provided by the Scots Guards. TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & BIRTHS, MARKHAGES &
DEATHS (Births, Adoptions,
Marriages, Deaths, Memorial
services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are
charged at \$8.50 a line (VAT
extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

film director, 74; Mr Roy Beggs MP, 63; Mr Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 48; Mr John Browne, group chief executive, BP, 51; Professor Andrew Fabian, astronomer, 51; Dr Ruth Gipps, composer and conductor, 78; Mr Jimmy Greaves, television 59; Mr Eddie Hemmings, cricketer, 50; Mr Ian Irwin, chairman, Scottish Transport Group, 66; Commandant Dame Marion Kettlewell, former Director, WRNS, 85; Mr Mike Leigh, playwright and theatre director, 56; Professor Donald Longmore, cardiac surgeon, 71; Ms Siohhain McDonagh MP, 39; Lord McNally, head of Public Affairs, Shandwick Consultants, 56; Mr Norman Miscampbell QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court and former MP. 74; Mr John Murphy, chairman, Interbrand Group plc, 55; Mr Phil Neal, former England footballer, 48; Mr David O'Dowd, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 57; Sir Frederick Page, former chief executive, British Aerospace, 82; Dr Valerie Payne, former Headmistress. Malvern Girls' College, 59; Mr Sidney Poitier, actor, 72; Vice-Admiral Sir Cameron Rusby, former chief executive, Scottish SPCA, 73; Mr George Waring, actor and director, 72; Mr Barry Wordsworth, conductor, 51.

TOMORROW: King Harald V of Norway, 62; Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, 65; Professor Ruth Bowden, anatomist, 84; Miss Jilly Cooper, writer and journal ist, 62; M Hnbert de Givenchy, fashion designer, 72; Mr Michael Deakin, documentary film maker, 60; Mr Leslie Durbin, silversmith, 86; Baroness Fookes, former MP, 63; Sir John Goulden, UK Permanent Representa-

BIRTHDAYS

company chairman, 74; Sir TODAY: Mr Robert Altman, Michael Grylls, former MP, 65; Sir Conrad Heron, former senior civil servant, 83; Sir Reginald Hibbert, former ambassador to France, 77; Sir John McGregor Hill, former chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 78; Lord Hunter, a former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 86; Mr Robert entator and footballer. Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, 75; Professor Sir Rupert Myers, scientist, 78; Mrs Diana Organ MP, 47; General Sir Robert Pascoe, former Adjutant-General, 67; Sir Ashley Ponsonby, former Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 78; Professor John Prescott, Principal, Wye College, London University, 62; Lt-Gen Str John Richards, former marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 72; Mr Alan Rickman, actor, 53; Miss Nina Simone, singer, 65; Mr Richard Turner-Warwick, surgeon and urologist, 74; Professor Leslie Wagner. Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Metropolitan University, 56; Mr David Wood, actor and playwright, 55. TODAY

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Honoré Daumier. caricaturist and painter. 1808; Dame Marie Rambert, founder of the Ballet Rambert, 1888; Carl Mayer, film director, 1892. Deaths: James I, King of Scotland, assassinated 1437; Luca della Robbia, sculptor, 1482; Nathan Field, actor and playwright, huried 1633; Augustin-Eugene Scribe. playwright, 1861; Percy Aldridge Grainger, composer, 1961; Robert Oxton Bolt, playwright and screenwriter. 1995. On this day: Austria declared herself bankrupt, 1811; a great storm raged in England, with much damage to the Crystal Palace, while the steeple of Chichester

Cathedral was blown away, 1861; Anthony Eden resigned as British Foreign Secretary, 1938; John Glenn, astronant, was launched into space in the Mercury capsule Friendship 7, 1962; new-design £10 notes were issued, showing a portrait of Florence Nightingale, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Eleutherius of Tournai, St Eucherius of Orleans, St Sadoth, Saints Tyrannio, Zenobius and their Companions and St Wulfric.

Births: Peter III. Tsar of

Russia, 172; Carl Czerny,

TOMORROW

pianist, teacher and writer, 1791; John Henry Newman, Cardinal, 1801; Charles-Marie Jean-Albert Widor, organist and composer, 1845: Sacha Guitry, actor, playwright and director, 1885: Anaīs Nin, writer, 1903; Wystan Hugh Auden, poet, 1907; Douglas Bader, Second World War fighter pilot, 1910; Tad Dameron (Tadley Ewing Peake), jazz pianist, composer and arranger, 1917. Deaths: Pope Julius II, 1513; Jethro Tull, agricultural writer, 1741; Kurt Eisner, Bavarian premier, assassinated in Munich 1919; George Ellery Hale, astronomer, 1938; Malcolm X (Little), black leader, murdered 1965. On this day: freedom of worship was established in France, 1795; the first republic of Cuba was founded, 1901; the British protectorate over Egypt ended, 1922; the New Statesman was founded, 1931; it was announced that British women aged 60 and over would receive the Old Age Pension, 1940; identity cards were abolished in Britain, 1952; in the United

States, John Ehrlichman,

H.R. Haldeman and John

Mitchell were sentenced

after the Watergate affair,

1975. Tomorrow is the Feast

tris, St Germanus of Granfel,

St Peter Damian, St Robert

Southwell and St Severian

of Scythopolis.

Day of St George of Amas-

LECTURES

TODAY National Gallery: Rebecca Drew, "Love (iii): Cranach, Cupid Complaining to Venus", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Susan Bright, "The Body in Photography", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Sickert, Painting and Cookery", 1pm. British Museum: Paul Collins, "From Village to City in the Ancient New East". 11.30am; Paul Collins, "Records and Writing in the Ancient Near East", 1.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Malcolm Warner, "John Everett Millais Series. From Private to Public: Millais' career as a portraitist", 3pm (0171-312 2463 for tickets).

TOMORROW Victoria and Albert Museum: Alistair Rohinson. "Nine Contemporary Photographers", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Degas, Sculpture and Dance", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Paul Webb, "The Film Career of Ian Carmichael", 3pm.

DINNERS

Defence and Security

Lady Olga Maitland, President, Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening in the House of Lords, London SW1. Field Marshal Lord Inge, former Chief of Defence Staff, was the guest speaker. Col Philip Howes, Chairman, also spoke.

RAF Strike Command A Ladies Guest Night was held by RAF Strike Command yesterday in the Officers' Mess. Headquarters Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe, on the occasion of the retirement of San Ldr J. Barber, Sqn Ldr M. O'Reilly, Son Ldr D. Lyons, Flt Lt W. Bissett and Fit Lt S. Pittawey.

Three key principles on gene modification

100

one of the deepest realities we face. All around us is a complexity and glory which is not of our making. Cloud forma-tions, oak trees, insects and our own digestive systems are all provided for us, and scientific understanding in these areas has to involve respect for what is there. Genetic manipulation is born of the unravelling of codes, of elaborate languages that communicate in ways we yet dimly understand. Those scientists who are helievers rightly respond with awe for the Creator and the complexity of creation. God creates in ways which are beyond the cleverest. We normally just manage to describe adequately and use successfully what we are given. But awe for the Creator is

not the only response. Something less modest is often in evidence. Take one of the issues thrown up by gene technology in the current controversy, ownership. If sun, wind, rain, earth, minerals, organisms and cell structures are all given to us, we can use the word "owned" only loosely. The natural things around us are owned by the God who has made them and us. We receive things, steward them and pass them on. Land is shared out and used, but we do not possess it. Bottled water is sold, but the price is for the bottling. We are surrounded by a vast priceless creation, and what we pay for simply reflects our labours, technology and trading patterns. It is added value.

However, agribusinesses involved in genetic modification see it another way. They claim rights of ownership. Yet the gene technologists do not actually invent the genes. They get them from existing brands. In creation terms the technology can be quite crude: using enzymes and plasmids to transfer genes from one organism to another, and even gunpowder to blast particles into the target cell. The genes in all their breathtaking, coded, life-shaping power are as supplied by the Great Technologist. The junior mechanics just

Indeed, the analogy is apt. If a manufacturer supplies a mag-

THE GIVENNESS of creation is nificent car, and a mechanic consequences. In this area the does some slight modifications, no one would expect the mechanic to turn round and say, "The car is mine now, and I have the right to sell it for the full price." Yet that is precisely the move that the GMO agribusinesses have made, and have established in international law.

They have moved around a few genes and are claiming ownership of the genotype; adjusted the carburettor and taken over the car. And, whereas it is reasonable to pay a good mechanic, it is unreasonable to have to huy something we've already been given.

FAITH & REASON

ELAINE STORKEY

The boundaries between creation and manipulation may be blurred but it is still possible to set sound guidelines on genetic experimentation

But there is another issue. The knowledge built into the Creation is vast and we know only a little. In Einstein's phrase, we are dipping our toes in an ocean of knowledge. A philosophy of science and technology based on Christian foundations huilds in humility, because we need awareness of what we do not know. But it is easy for some at the boundaries of technology to focus only on what they do know, to have a doctrine of effective omniscience. Belief in omniscience makes it become possible to take on any modifications, and assert: "These changes are safe" - even, it seems, to the extent of suppressing evidence to the contrary. And yet every human and technological activity is surrounded by

unintended and unforeseen

range of unintended consequences could be vast - digestive and human body effects. antibiotics, bacterial modification, effects on plant, animal, insect, hird populations, body and health implications and so on. We are talking large crops. It is possible to have tunnel_ vision and not see what is outside our tunnel. Some of what we are doing will be beyond our vision and our ken.

The GMOs may be good and they may not be, but if we respect the already excellent creation, we approach possible changes with some constraint. Titanics sink. Technologies fail. We are still discovering why we need a range of natural foods which artificial foods cannot replace. What we do not know has been huilt into the procedures of good quality science. There are research routines, trials, tests, patterns of review and structures which prevent self-interest leading to biased results.

It seems that if this issue is to be tackled properly we need three principles in place. The first requires respect for the integrity of creation and of the boundaries that have been established. Technological manipulation can never be a free-for-all. Transference of genes must rest on a sound ethical basis. The second principle is that there should be open access to what the Creator has given us. The manipulation of genotypes is something like horticulture or patenting a technology and does not -amount to ownership in perpetuity. The third principle is that we need to recognise the limits of what we know. When new steps like this are taken the company must be patient with research, and be prepared to be held responsible for all

unforeseen consequences. What has become evident is that these principles have not been followed. Marketing has nudged ahead of scientific ethics, appropriated ownership, caused deep concern in the Third World, and knowledge is asserted rather than proven. A pause now would be better than recrimination later, It would also leave us still free to enjoy what the Creator has given.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

The agony and the XTC

Stubborn, single-minded, eccentric – that's XTC. But a comeback album of orchestrations? That's so Andy Partridge. By John Morrish

aking slurps from a disgusting brown drink that's supposed to restore him after a bout of flu, Andy Partridge of XTC is in an unusually quiet mood. But even when he's recounting the band's woes, he can't resist a joke. "It's a catalogue of errors," he agrees, then elaborates. "It's an Argos catalogue of errors."

It certainly appeared an error when, in 1982, after years touring the world, he developed permanent stage-fright and took XTC off the road. With an album and single ("Senses Working Overtime") high in the British charts, they had seemed on the brink of a breakthrough.

Nor was it necessarily sensible to spend five years suing their manager after an unpaid VAT bill for £300,000 dropped through Partridge's letterbox. They lost some £500,000 on the exercise.

Nor was it transparently worthwhile to spend another five years "on strike" in an attempt to escape from their "back of a fag packet" contract with Virgin records.

And, even now, there are those who wonder whether the right way to come back after seven years of silence is with a record dominated by orchestrations: this from a band who made their name with an album called Drums And Wires. But Partridge is not in the mood for doubts: "I was more excited putting the stuff together for this record, in more nervous anticipation, than I was for our very first album."

XTC "downed plectrums" in 1992 after Virgin records suddenly withdrew their last single. Since then, they've effectively been paralysed. "If we'd done anything as XTC, Virgin would have owned it. If we'd farted in the bath, they would have owned that,"

They took odd jobs, musical and otherlow average wage" from publishing. Andy,



hailed briefly as The Godfather of Britpop, worked with Cathy Dennis, Terry Hall, Blur and others. Colin Moulding, bass player and songwriter, did some sessions and made stained glass. Guitarist Dave Gregory, with only a nominal share of the publishing, had to work moving rental cars around the country, and not for the first time.

But Partridge continued to write. He also built a studio in his garden shed, where he created increasingly finished demos, despite uproar in his personal life. In America in the early Eighties, he had met a woman called Erica Wexler. Their association threatened his marriage; on the Skylarking album, the band's biggest success in America, a track called "Another Satellite" was intended to warn her away.

Luckily for him, she was not easily as programmed by Partridge and producer dissuaded. "I fell jam-side up," he says, gesturing upstairs where Erica can be heard clumping about.

In the meantime, his wife Marianne had left him for another man. Partridge capwise, surviving on what Partridge calls "a tured his anger in a song called "Your Dictionary", intended, he says, "as an exercise

to get the pus out of the top of my head". It appears on the new album, which is

Partridge, no househusband, now found himself looking after his two young children for half the year. He began drinking heavily, until prostate trouble told him to stop. "It reduces you to real old man status," he says. Then there was an inner-ear infection that might have deafened him.

But in the midst of his turmoils he surprised himself by finding "a new sound".

"River of Orchids", the opening track of the new album, began as a two-bar riff built up from pizzicato string samples, layered with chants and melodic fragments. "I think it resude like a numerate shorts." it sounds like a nursery rhyme," says Partridge, "which pleases me no end."

In 1997, free of Virgin, the band began preparing a new album. Colin Moulding had, as usual, a handful of songs in primitive shape. Andy had 40, finished. He insisted that the new record be a double album of 21 songs, half "orchustic", and half electric. In the event, it will appear as two separate records: Apple Venus Volume 1 and Volume 2.

Partridge once wrote his songs by stamping his foot and strumming into a mono cassette. Now he makes digital demos in his shed, then replicates them in his producer's computer. For the orchestral Apple Venus, the budget allowed a day of recording at Abbey Road, where a 40-piece band played arrangements written by Mike "Wombles" Batt. But the human string players could not match the math-Haydn Bendall. Nor could the woodwinds cope with the computerised ostinato in Greenman", another fine example of Partridge's armchair paganism. The orchestra became a glorified sample, cut and pasted together to achieve the "Vaughan Williams with a hard-on' sound required.



Before all that, however, the new methods had taken their toll elsewhere. After waiting years to make the record, then months to slot his guitar parts into the spaces allocated to him, Dave Gregory decided he'd had enough. He had been in

the band for 19 years. According to Partridge: "I said to him, Look Dave, I need to do these vocals in peace, and I can't concentrate with you sitting there shaking your head and going on about how it's all fucked. So would you take a break while I do my vocals?' And be took that as permission for him to go."

Gregory and Partridge have not spoken since, although there have been bitter technology, and he tries to be conciliatory. "It's not the record I wanted to make after six years of doing nothing, but it's a fine album," he says. "I think Andy's done a good job in recording the sones. Plus, there was a lot of personal stuff between Andy and me that got a bit out of hand."

Recently, he has played a few sessions and recorded a new version of "No Milk Today" for Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits. Friends have received copies of his Remoulds, in whch Gregory creates brilliant Tom Keating-style forgeries of tracks ranging from "Macarthur Park" to "All Along The Watchtower".

What undermined Gregory within XTC was that he was not a writer Recently, though, he has been mulling over the un-finished songs be has accumulated over the years, with the aim of assembling an album of his own. And what will it be like? "A real kit of drums, a guitar going through an amplifier: that's the essence of rock faxes. Gregory presents his departure as music - and where I come from But there's a matter of craft skills displaced by new nothing wrong with hi-tech, pseudo-

classical stuff," he says, and seems entirely sincere. "I'm a big fan of Prog Rock." Partridge is currently thinking about Volume 2, to be recorded in Colin Moulding's garage outside Swindon. All very XTC. Partridge admits he lives in a limbo tween rock'n'roll and real life. Sociable

and effortlessly entertaining, he admits to having no friends. "It's an only child thing," he says, quite cheerfully.

XTC, he says, is no longer a band. 'It's more of a brand. It's more HP Sauce than ever. We're two selfish middle-aged gits who make the music we make. I often see people our age in bands and I think 'You're pretending now! You're pretending to be rebellious, you're putting on this fake stance. I bet you wish you were at home with your slippers on, looking through your stamp collection',"

Partridge's single-mindedness and his vision have cost XTC a lot over the years. At the same time, they have probably kept XTC going. He surely must have been tempted, many times, to jack it all in, but he says not. "It's not that I think I'm going to save the planet with my songs," he insists. "I'm realistic about that now. But I can't stop writing.

'Apple Venus Volume 1' is released on Cooking Vinyl on Monday (Cook CD 172)



magazine for every reader

IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE:

Seve speaks from the heart and talks of his hopes for the future, his fears about his health Plus: The question that made him cry

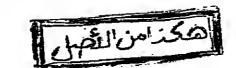
How low can you go? - Maximise your potential with our 15-Page Instruction Guide

Mark O'Meara - The round of my life (and it's not the one you think)

Nicklaus - Great golfer, chronic captain



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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

By FIONA STURGES

EXCELLENT √ GOOD





DEADLY

CRITICAL VIEW

OUR VIEW

Those who were moved by The Sweet Hereafter - also based on a Banks novel - will be spelibound by Affliction, Noite turns himself inside out in a performance that has been hotly tipped for an Oscar.

Affliction is on general release, certificate 15. 113 minutes

Le Cid is at the

Riverside Studios,

London W6 until

26 February, For

bookings and

0181-237 1111

Organism is available

ON VIEW

the staging really worked. I have seen Tosca lots of times, but the stand-out quality for me was the sound. This time it sounded really speciacular an the voices were great."

QUADLING 64, housewife It was very good.

NILS WEISE

33, theatre agent,

I thought it was

especially the idea of il being in the round. And having the actor stantly wall urdience and on to the stage. It was slightly scary, tooking arou and seeing dark figures come down the stairs. The only down was that I thought the orchestre drowned out the singers in the sta but as it progressed this balance

JULIE SKINNER rep. London really good and

to the opera, but it was different because II was much bigger place to fill. And because this was in the round,

there was e different atmosphere. thought it was fantastic and Susan Bullock was excallent, Her voice is beautiful, really really nice. I thought she made it. WILLIAM CHESSHYRE

55, livery company clerk, London "What I particular! Direct was the very dramatic setting, and a good use of

the open space. The floor clock was beautifully styled, and made you think of a church. And the props in general were simple, but nighly effective and atmospheric. Which is really how it is supposed



OVERVIEW

study of fatherhood and fatalism, based on Russel Banks's novel, stars Nick Noite as a man struggling to escape his violent father's influence

Declan Donnellan directs

dern-dress staging. It

ng man who slays his

Firmish synth-master Jimi

includes the forthcoming

Tenor returns with a

second UK release.

single "Year of the

Nikolaus Lebnhoff's

production of Wagner's

the action stripped of

in a post-nuclear

Jarvis Cocker revisits

in the year - the state of

wasteland.

Parsiful at the ENO sees

religious imagery and set

Organism, which

Corneille's 1637

tragi-comedy in this

follows the story of a

"Nick Noize gives a performance of such rage and sorrow the screen seems hardly big enough to contain him," observed Anthony Quinn: "The heaviness is a little stifling, but not inappropriate: Schrader's American tragedy has a duil finality that is determinedly depressing," opined Time Out, while The Guardian declared: Nolte has

Donnellan is a master at creating a shifting

diagram of the psychological forces

Spanish values seem passionately.

operating at any one point... A lucid and

passionate staging," wrote Paul Taylor.
"Donnellan's achievement is to make old

noted the Evening Standard. Superbly

significant rather than antique absurdirles."

"Onirky and quixotic, it's bags of fun, and aptly titled too. Tenor blending his beats

and samples to produce a warm, organic.

decided Andy Gill. "Moroder-esque Moog

sound that's light years away from the

eruptions, Money Mark funkadelia and

spooky Dalek vocoders - sleazy listening

This provocative, intelligent and very

moving production of Wagner's perplexing

Which there are no easy answers," decided

agnostic Parsifel. It wants to believe, but it

needs to know." "Moving and profound."

The unwillingness of the programme to risk an explanation was a flaw, but perhaps

t was a necessary price for the enthusiasm

Cocker brought to the subject. The film was

an eloquent argument in favour of art which

may not be pretty, but is chock full of life.

do it, so can a lorry-load of smashed

revealed Robert Hanks. "If a dead sheep can

wrote The Spectator. "Thoughtful and

masterpiece dares to ask questions for

Edward Seckerson, adding, "Ir is the

more glacial tones of techno purists,"

rarely been better," "Schrader's austere direction and Noite's raw portrayal of a man cracking up keeps Affliction firmly on track," decided the Financial Times. "Schrader's tapses of judgement come close to making the whole thing a travesty." spluttered The Express. "Infuriatingly slow and sloppy," yawned the Daily Mail.

Times, adding "Donnellan's production

pronounced The Daily Telegraph, and

indeed," remarked Uncut. Time Out was

ecstatic: "One fabulous, spangled journey

from start to finish", while The Face found

it "A stylish revelation". "Surprisingly down-

enough to command attention," mumbled

satisfying," opined The Times. "The casting

theatrical bire," noted the Financial Times;

"I can't help thinking that Wagner would

Villeroy and Boch," quipped the Daily Mail,

calling the series "fascinating". "Cocker was

better grade for his theories about Outsider

Art," revealed the Evening Standard, while

the Daily Telegraph decided "The choice of

pop star was the key." "An unusual take on

life and art," said the Daily Record.

out to prove a point, or rather to get a

have been exasperated by the ugty and

nihilistic interpretation foisted on it.

is from the ENO's top drawer ... but the

while The Dally Telegraph confessed:

production is desperately short of

tempo, invariably cheesy and strangely

soulful," reported the NME. "More than

The Times.

Time Out deemed it "remarkable".

fluid and intelligent," said the Financial The constant shift of passion and power is magnificently rarely stops moving, swirling from scene represented under Donnellan's to scene like an elaborate dance: "Spare staging, narrative clarity, incisive acting." nsible Spanish code reported The Times. "Le Cld is a triumph,"

direction, while the potentially of honour is brought up to date. A resounding success.

Tenor brings together cheesy synths, complex jazz and swing arrangements and his kooky subject matter in this impeccable album. The end of the world has never sounded so

from record shops on Warp. Jimi Tenor will be performing at the Improv Theatre, W1 on 25 February. For enquiries call 0171-387 2414.

Wagner purists may be Porsiful will be at the distracted by the stripped-Coliseum undl 19 March. For bookings down nature of Lehnhoff's interpretation; but the and enquirles call splendour of the 0171-632 8300 ENO orchestra and the fine cast cannot

fail to impress. Despite his low college grade Cocker showed a genuine interest in Outsider Art and uncovered some interesting work.

though he failed to

offer adequate

critical appraisal.

Journeys into the Outside With Jarvis Cocker continues next Tuesday at 11.10pm.

Intimacy on a grand scale

IN LAST year's production of Puccini's' Madam Butterfly, the director David Albert Hall need not get in the way of dramatic intimacy. As he said at the time, boxers don't box big at the Albert Hall: similarly, the key for singers is not of Act 2, Act 3 often misses the target, to act big and operatic, but to draw the

THE OPERA PARSIFAL

THE TV PROGRAMME

audience into the clinches. The same composer's Tosca poses different problems, not least because the eponymous heroine does, indeed, act big and operatic. Not for her Butterfly's sweet stoicism. She is someone who makes an aria out of a crisis, and the relationship that matters in the opera is not between Tosca and her lover Cavaradossi, but between Tosca and the lecherous chief of police, Scarpia. Since she kills him at the end

OPERA

ROYAL ALBERT HALL LONDON .

even if the bullets that kill Cavaradossi don't, and Tosca's climactic suicide all too easily seems the desperate act of

a foolish woman, It is to the credit of Freeman's staging that the tension is sustained through that final act, so that Tosca's suicide has something of the force of meaningful sacrifice. There is a genuine verismo whilf to the production, right down to the reek of incense that fills the nostrils as you enter the auditorium. The details, though, do not

room for Freeman's attentive mise enscene: Cavaradossi's easel has the look of a gallows, warning us that he, like Tosca, will die for his art.

Sung in Amanda Holden's succinct translation, the opera benefits from amplification that may hiur some musical contours in unnatural perspectives, but allows the drama to breathe. The sound is not kind to all the voices, and lends the BBC Concert Orchestra under Peter Robinson a "Friday Night is Music Night" blatancy. not wholly inappropriate to Puccini.

Susan Bullock's Tosca dominates proceedings, the tone fevered and sincere if sometimes spread too thin.

crowd out the drama, and David John Uhlenhopp's Cavaradossi fares Roger's spare but evocative sets use less well, the microphone emphasisall, a man at the end of his tether. Keith Latham's Scarpia is all brute bluster; more subtlety might not go amiss.

With cleanly etched cameos from the supporting cast, this is a real ensemble performance. Opera on this scale will never supplant opera house performances, but in the right hands, it offers a different and viable set of possibilities, not the least of which is being able to follow the drama moment by moment. And in a composer such as Puccini, that pays rich dividends. NICK KIMBERLEY

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper



"Tosca': the details don't crowd out the drama

Anderw Buurman

Plato – the transsexual musical

the muscular, cowboy-hatted African-American drag performer, on stage at the Bowery Ballroom. The crowd at the Manhattan night-club - three floors of suspiciously straight-looking white people - screamed out wrong guesses at her name.

But this horde was well acquainted with another drag queen, A fictional one named Hedwig. They were at the ballroom to celebrate the yearold musical Hedwig the Angry Inch and its spanking new cast album.

In the play, Hedwig recounts the story of her life: an East German "slip of a girlie-boy" undergoes a botched Iron Curtain sex change (thus the "angry inch" of the title) and becomes an American trailer-park divorcee working "the jobs we call blow". Decked out in a Farrah Fawcett wig and a stonewashed denim frock with a fringe, she recalls her rumance with an adolescent rock-god-to-be, and

"DO YOU know who I am?" shouted finally becomes herself, a demigendered singer

While Hedwig the dingy chanteuse is a bit of loser, Hedwig the play is anything but. The New York theatre critics' pet will soon be a movie. And you may be seeing Hed-

wig at a London theatre near you. The play has deserved accolades for its music, which ranges from Iggy Pop to Indie-pop, and also for its unsentimental picture of a drag diva more Courtney Love than Judy Garland. Hedwig is given to clever, angry patter. When asked what creature had to die, for her to have her ratty fur coat, Hedwig quips: "My Aunt Trudy". But does the much-beloved Hedwig indicate a new affection for New York's transgendered people?

"Films such as Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and To Wong Foo have made drag non-threatening and have created expectations and audiences for something even 'edgier', like or in the supermarket." he adds.

NEW YORK DIARY



ALISSA QUART

Hedwig," says Eric Clarke, a Rocke-feller Fellow at the Lesbian and Gay Studies Center at the City University of New York.

"Of course, people generally just want to see drag and transsexuality as entertainment, not on the street

Unlike Patrick Swayze in a dress, Hedwig isn't just a mound of sparide. She conveys suffering and worldweariness, mourning her never-was career and her lost loves. Her songs are sophisticated: Hechoig's best number is dedicated to Plato's androgyne. One theatre critic (a fan) compared it with Rocky Horror, but the show in fact aspires to be a trash-rock version of Plato's Symposium.

At the Bowery Ballroom, Cheater (also the play's on stage band, The Angry Inch) played to a drag-loving het crowd, among which straight men built like spark plugs wondered out loud when the evening's Hedwig lookalike competition would get under way. With the bewigged drag queens in such short supply, one man started fetishising a "real" woman bartender with Hedwig-themed hair - two gargantuan pony tails complemented by a dog-collar and a schoolgirl pout.

"Her hair is fabulous!" one man cried. "She's fierce," said another.
"No, she's fabulous," chimed a third. Clarke compares Hedwig to another diversion in what he calls an "East Village touristic" vein - the weekly "Foxy Night" at a Manhattan bar named Cock

"All of a sudden, straight people and conventional gay men are lining up, paying \$5 and watching members of the audience do the most disgusting, unrepeatable things with their bodies for a \$100 prize," says Clarke. One of those "unrepeatable" acts was akin to what the Eighties performance artist Karen Finley did with yams.

Hedwig is also something of a work of West Village tourism. After Hedwig the play, theatre-goers pour out on to the West Side Highway and walk towards the subway. And as they do, they ignore the Meat Packing district's many real transsexuals.

ARTS DIARY

DAVID LISTER

Olivier Awards that you may have seen on TV this week were missing the moments I remember best from the ceremony I attended. Edited out was Mark Little's hilariously ill-judged opening cry of "Welcome to Planet Luvvie" and the resounding silence from the audience of thespians who loathe the phrase. Also cut was Trevor Nunn's attack on the critics who had questioned his wisdom in putting on Oklahoma! It must, though, have been ineptitude that made the BBC cut Kevin Spacey's emotional reminiscences of coming to the theatre in London as a child, as well as his being overwhelmed at receiving an award from Lady Olivier. What was shown? The one unoriginal part of his speech, thanking the rest of the cast. Who edits these things?

CURIOUS. THE Laurence

Perhaps they are the same people who dreamt up the new-look Oliviers. In a clumsy attempt to be dramatic, the award of Best New Play to The Weir was not announced until the 🚄 following week, which meant that it received little publicity. Andre Ptaszynski, president of the Society of London Theatre, is the godfather of the new format. He says dinner jackets and glitz give the wrong image of the theatre. Really? Do the red carpets and outlandishly expensive fashions of the Oscars put

people off going to films?

SIR PETER HALL's launch of the Shadow Arts Council at the Olivier Awards was, however, a suitably dramatic moment. Thus was born an anti-government body of the great and the glamorous, including such luminaries as Sir Tom Stoppard (below). They had met in secret the day before, Sir Peter revealed. This was a surprise to everyone, including Stoppard: it was the first he'd heard of it. Sir Peter said the new Shadow Arts Council would be a port of call for the press with queries about the true state of the arts. OK. First question: at this secret meeting, who was the tall, curly-haired bloke impersonating Tom Stoppard?

ARTSPEAK AWARD of the week goes to Mark McCormack's International Management Group, the sports marketing guru that has set up IMG Arts Projects. It says it has been formed "to meet a need for arts management consultants who were also experienced arts professionals with a strong husiness edge and corporate ties who were willing to provide clients with daily hands-on assistance with performing arts projects such as managing performance venues and performing arts organisations". Ah, you say, that's not artspeak, that's management

consultantspeak. But is

there any longer a

difference?

AS A well-chosen primer for Lauryn Hill Live (Radio 1, Sunday), Trevor Nelson played "Vocab", a Fugees track lifted from a 1994 BBC session. The tune's insistent nodding rhythms prepared the ground for an outstanding live performance by the young singer and MC, who has now gone solo. Lauryn Hill describes her music as honest and spiritual, and before taking to the stage she spoke with poetic reverence about some of the artists who inspired her. Whitney Houston, she said, pos-sesses an "anointed voice", while Aretha Franklin was her teacher and didn't even know it. Miss Hill has her own accomplished way with words, but she pointed to Curtis Mayfield as the guy whose lyrics were "prettier

poem "Dover Beach" opened a new

series entitled Clouded Hills (World Service, Monday). In this first programme, Richard Holmes planned to read aloud on the very beach that inspired the great work, but, as he himself pointed out, the problem these days is to find it. Searching for something poetic in modern-day Dover turned out to be quite a challenge as he battled between columns of freight trucks bound for the Continent. Eventually, however, he made it on to the shingle. Then, his voice almost lost in a bitter wind, he began reading. Somehow it seemed worth the struggle. When a father observes his son

asking for the undertaker's autograph at a funeral, you may expect him to find it mildly disturbing. Especially when the boy's own Another master of the vocab was

Another master of the vocab was

Matthew Arnold (1822-88), and his

Matthew Arnold (1822-88), and his

THE WEEK IN RADIO



MAGNUS MILLS

offspring's growing interest in bereavement is positively encouraged. While Dad scans the papers for forthcoming sad events, his son takes a Saturday job at the local funof Darkness (Radio 4, Saturday), the must adjust itself to the times or die".

The tale, read by the author, had a perfect ending that cannot be revealed here in case of repeats. The next story is, apparently,

true. The two companies that built the Transcontinental Railroad across the United States in the last century were making so much money that when they met in the middle, they both refused to stop. Instead, they kept going for another 100 miles each, leaving a big overlap of unwanted track

This was one of the facts unearthed in Behind the Iron Horse (Radio 4, Saturday). The railroad allowed Americans to travel west and "finish the landscape", as one contemporary put it. Cavalry posts were established to protect the construc-, tion workers from Indian attacks, and special railroad towns were huilt to with separate winter quarters set up entirely on what Simon Says said.

for the Chinese and Irish labourers. Then, when all this hard work was eventually finished. America decided that it preferred cars and aeroplanes after all.

Who needs land anyway, when you can occupy cyberspace? That was the question explored in Virtual Spires (Radio 3, Saturday). Accompanied by a Dutchman called Simon Says, the listener entered a virtual world accessible only on the computer screen. As a plano plonked eerily in the background, we heard Simon Says describe the pretend world that he and his virtual neighbours have created. "It's very nice scenery," he said. "All snowy." There were cathedral walls he could fly through, if he so wished, and breathtaking architecture within. Obviously, of course, we couldn't see any cater for the workmen's basic needs, of this on the radio, and had to rely

Finding the exit from hell

Lewis Wolpert's depression brought more pain than his wife's death. Julie Wheelwright asks why

psychiatrist friend of mine described meeting a former patient in a lobby of the National Theatre. Since the man had ended his treatment, my friend made his way through the crush to enquire how he was. But although the psychiatrist had seen his patient through a terrifying bout of mental illness, the man felt unable to acknowledge him. When be saw the doctor coming, he turned and melted into the crowd. Despite its prevalence, sufferers from mental illness still bear stigmata of weakness and shame.

The facts, however, are indisputable: depression remains a hidden seam of misery within our society. The charity SANE fields 1,000 calls per week, the majority from people with clinical depression. One person in five suffers from depression at some point in their lives. In the UK, more than 5,000 people commit suicide every year; more than 100,000 make a serious attempt. The World Health Organisation predicts that, by 2020, depression will top the global chart as the most pervasive serious illness, more pervasive than either heart disease

Lewis Wolpert, biology professor at University College, London, has stepped out of the closet to describe his own slide into depression and to provide sufferers with a deeper understanding of the illness. Malignant Sadness: the anatomy of depression (Faber, £9.99), which accompanies a BBC2 series, chronicles the intense despair that lead him to an obsession with suicide and finally to find redemption in a psychiatric ward. The book is striking in its clarity about the mind's capacity to swing out of control and in our growing understanding that such events may be triggered by neurochemicals rather than simple human tragedy.

. Wolpert argues that unless you have suffered depression, you cannot begin to imagine its torture. In the hierarchy of pain, he helieves his illness was worse than witnessing in 1997 the death from breast cancer of his beloved second wife, Jill Neville, the Australian writer. "I am ashamed to admit that my depression felt worse than her death," he writes, "but it is true. I was in a state that bears no resemblance to anything I had experienced before."

There is a delicious irony in meeting Professor Wolpert to discuss the darkest moments of his depression. Deemed the "lord high contradictory" hy Jill Neville, he rocks with an intellectual passion, is unafraid to admit his frailties and appears to have an unquenchable appetite for life. Within seconds of meeting we have launched into a conversation about cycling, since I have appeared with my helmet tucked under my arm, and he is a comcloset-sized office, piled high with books, papers and coffee cups, to sit on dilapidated chairs. The February sun streaks through

grimy windows; all is right with the world. Then Wolpert delves back into the time when doubt, anxiety and despair enfolded him. It was before Jill became ill: they had a happy marriage, he had a great job and was looking forward to travelling to his former home in South Africa. But when he developed atrial fibrilation (a common and non-threatening arrythmia of the heart), he began to fantasise about falling ill and dying in a remote place. "I began to feel very

weird. I can describe it no other way."



LEWIS WOLPERT, A BIOGRAPHY

came obsessed with thoughts about suicide,

which grew more insistent over several

weeks. He stopped functioning, shedding

all the activities that gave him intense plea-

sure, such as working, writing and cycling. His wife was convinced the trip to South

Africa (where his father was murdered 20

years before), along with his impending re-

Then suddenly, he was unable to steep

tirement, had fuelled the depression.

Born in South Africa in 1929, Lewis for the Public Understanding of Sci-tiffic research of his own that brought Wolpert trained as an engineer and . ence and was awarded the CBE in public attention followed a fertilised once had a job with the Israel Plan1990. His books include A Passion for egg from embryo to new-born infant. ning Department. He then became a Science, The Triumph of the Embryo cell biologist in London. He is chair- and, with Alison Richards, The Unman of the Royal Society's Committee natural Nature of Science. The scien-

grammes on science. His second wife, the novelist Jill Neville, died in 1997. a few weeks before I had descended into me commit suicide." When I ask if he depression," he says, the furrows in-

He also presents many radio pro-

creasing in his usually animated face. "I was suicidal, I thought I was going mad." His waking moments were consumed with planning his exit, as he hoarded his heart pills and sleeping tablets. "My wife was very angry and thought that my behaviour was totally unfair to her and to the children. So she told me that if I still felt and began to take tranquilisers. "It took only the same in a year's time, she would help

thought she meant it, he insists, as tears well up in his eyes, "yes, absolutely".

"Jill never understood my depression, it was a total mystery to her." But her hreaking-point with Wolpert was the catalyst for him to seek professional help, in the psycho-geriatric ward at the Royal Free Hospital in north London. There he began his journey back to mental health. After a

sessions of cognitive therapy, his frac-tured sense of self began to reintegrate. An-other irony surfaces. Despite Jill Neville's steady physical decline, Wolpert says that she never became depressed. There was rage and sadness, but never the descent into that hlack pit of utter despair.

Four years after the gloom lifted, Wolpert's book reflects his ability to take a forensic approach to his experience. A research scientist, he has assembled the latest findings on depression while providing an historical and social context for them. By dissecting our social history, he reveals our fears and confusion, and why we are unable to shake off a sense of shame.

"Even I haven't escaped the stigma," he admits. "I was recently giving a big lecture in Geneva and this friend of mine kept asking, why do you think your depression was biological?' Even I insist mine was triggered by a drug that I was taking for my heart and, of course, it had no psychological base."

But Molignant Sadness suggests a complex interplay between the brain and the psyche. This provides the book's most fascinating insights. Studies of identical twins provide, for example, strong evidence for a genetic component in depression, suggesting its heritability at more than 50 per cent. Almost a quarter of those with depression have close relatives who have also suffered from a depressive illness. There is also the mystery of why, in 40 per cent of depressions, an individual improves with little or no intervention at all.

There is no scientific formula for mental health, just as there are few clues to what can turn grief into full-blown clinical depression. "Apart from bereavement, it is not always easy to identify significant life events in a depressed patient's life," he writes. "Memory has a variable reliability, and there may well be a distortion of events, for example, the overemphasising of an event in order to make the depression more understandable." So while many schools of psychotherapy encourage patients to script a meaningful narrative of their history, the depressive may also need help to right a chemical imbalance.

"We want and need to know how emotions and thinking can affect the chemistry of the brain and how the chemistry of the brain affects our thinking and feeling," writes Wolpert. He argues that drugs and the talking cure each have their place. However, there are people who can overcome a depression simply through a limited number of psychotherapeutic sessions. So why, he asks, are NHS patients so readily offered drugs and so rarely therapy? The answer comes down to cost. There are frightening suggestions emanating from the US that the benefits of psychotherapy are being denigrated simply because insurance

Our best hope for finding a cure for depression might lie in biological research, but Wolpert doesn't dismiss the importance of raising social awareness. Now that he has so boldly gone public about his illness, he has discovered colleagues and even close friends who have also struggled to survive the malignant sadness. His realises they all share a relief at escaping from this living hell and the haunting fear that it may return. "It is still miraculous that I am back to normal. I feel like Lazarus risen from the dead and given a second chance."

journey back to mental health. After a Lewis Wolpert's series "A Living Hell" course of anti-depressants and many starts on BBC2 on Wednesday 3 March.

COVER **STORIES**



A SURPRISE treat for Stephen King fans. Despite comments that he might not write any more books, the prolific author has taken his publishers by surprise, producing an unscheduled novel to be published in April. "An unexpected pregnancy" is how he has described The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon, a story of a little girl lost who listens to baseball games and believes herself a friend of Tom Gordon, in fact as in fiction a pitcher with the Boston Red Sox. Gordon has "blessed" the book and each of the games described actually happened - King is a serious fan. The novel is being rushed through to be on sale before the baseball season opens on 13 April.

PENNY JUNOR, whose recent opus attempted a rehabilitation of Charles hy a debunking of Diana (which prompted death threats on her US tour), has another subject in her sights: Sir Elton John, of whom she is no particular fan. She's doubtless planning more muck-raking but, since Elton has pretty much confessed all and fans won't pay good money for warts only, publishers are not too keen. Nor should they be, given the cold shower HarperCollins took on Junor's Charles book.

A GOOD month for Beryl Bainbridge, Following her Author of the Year Award, she has won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Master Georgie. At £3,000, it's not as valuable as the Booker or the Whitbread, but Bainbridge is not known for avarice. Just so long as she has enough to keep her in ciggies.

FOLLOWING MONTHS of accepting the applause on behalf of father Ted, Frieda Hughes this week takes a bow as a poet. Wooroloo, published this week by Bloodaxe Books, inhahits territory familiar to readers of her half-dozen children's books and fans of her paintings. Unsurprisingly, death and abandonment are among the themes explored in a collection that bears the simple dedication "For Daddy with love".

HEINEMANN CLAIMS that True At First Light, the "new" Ernest Hemingway work it will publish in the summer, has only just been discovered. In fact it's been known about for years; but son Patrick decided it should not appear until after the death of Papa's widow Mary, as the semiictional journal features a liaison with an African woman. The contract was finally agreed in Paris, at the Ritz, on what turned out to be the morning following Dodi and Diana's last supper.

Macho boyos and the hoodlums

Tobias Jones tramps our own mean streets and meets a crack squad of hard-boiled Brits

THERE'S NO such thing as innocence", wrote Mickey Spillane in his noir classic, Kiss Me. Deadly: "innocence touched with guilt is as good a deal as you can get." That line has become the leitmotif of the hard-boiled, bard-bitten genre in which everyone is soiled and cynical. American literature has always had a rich seam of this urban gothic fiction, full of paranoia and private cyes: Dashiell Hammett, Chester Himes, Raymond Chandler. Elmore Leonard, James Eilroy, Walter Mosley.

Until recently. British crimewriting has been set more amid the spires than the mean streets. Aggressive, taut writing about urban criminality has appeared, usually only to veer into the surreal or else to be hijacked by boasts of manic drug-ingestion (step forward the usual suspects: Jeff Noon, Irvine Welsh. Will Self).

Now, though, a clutch of now likely to yield a fatter slice thrillers is reinventing the genre for British tastes. The received wisdom is that today's male writing is suddenly touchy-feely, but these thrillers come not with the "scent of dried roses" hut with the whiff and recently the retro-glam of of cordite. Why now? It may he that years of club drugs and Conservatism have served up the same paranoia as Mc-Carthyism and the Cold War did during the flowering of Ameria uthors with amhition want



Five Pubs, Two Bars and a Nightclub by John Williams Bloamsbury £9.99, 224pp

can "pulp culture" in the 1950s.

of rampant paperback pub-

lishing: more than 100,000

books published last year in

Britain, and a fiction market

worth over £220 million. The

gothic of guns-and-girls, en-

of that pie than an Aga-saga.

closed between lurid covers, is

Also, hard-boiled fiction -

with its simple, scenic plot pro-

gressions - translates easily to

celluloid. Chandler and Ham-

mett doubled as screenwriters,

Devil in a Blue Dress or LA

Confidential have introduced

bourbon-swigging private eyes

to a new generation. With a re-

vitalised British film industry.

Like then, we live at a time



Cradle to Grave by Garth Creer Anchor, £9.99, 336pp

films made of their books, and

so will skew their writing into

appropriate genres. Already

James Hawes's A White Merc

With Fins (not quite noir, but

certainly gris) is in production.

Others are hoping to follow.

John Williams's linked set of

stories Five Pubs, Two Bors

and A Nightclub (a dreadful title

for a brilliant book) has all the

right raw ingredients. As the

blurb has it: "Gangsters, pimps,

dealers, bookies and the Nation

of Islam. Welcome to Cardiff."

It's notoriously difficult to fake

the streetwise underworld, but

Williams has already written a

factual book about crime in

Cardiff's docklands, Bloody

Valentine, and his book rings

true through every twist and



Losing Faith by Daniel Blythe Hamish Homilton, £9.99, 256pp

This is an ensemble piece about black gangsters in Cardiff, with drug-deals, prostitution and a pirate radio station. Tony, recently released from prison, suddenly finds himself caught in a gang war between his cousin Billy and Kenny Ibadulla, a Malcolm X wannabe. The book has all the classic traits of urban noir: slick plot, cold-blooded betray-

als and withering one-liners. But Williams toys wonderfully with the genre. Seemingly aware of the difficulties of a straight, boyo adoption of Harlem patois, he apes Americanisms while satirising them. He uses the word "bitches" only to qualify it: "like they say in the down-in-the-hood movies." He mocks the use of mass shifts. People jockey like metaphor for marginality. But her husband's infidelity.

been to Jamaica's a day trip down Porthcawl." His stories are refreshingly realistic about the small-timers, full of hitpart dealers using hydroponic gear to grow their grass and people pimping just to make

Daniel Blythe's Losing Flath and Gareth Creer's Cradle To Grupe promise almost exactly the same sinister formula. Blythe's blurb offers "experiments with drugs, sex and violence"; Creer's an "under-world of clubs, drugs and obsessive lust". They both, of course, also have an exotic, albeit suspicious, death, and a lot of authorial sleuthing, (Both, by the way, come to the genre not via the streets but the lecture hall Blythe is completing a doctorate in German Romanticism, while Creer has a

full of wonderfully short, jaded sentences: "the sun is out now, steaming urban reprisals" or "Babies cry, mothers swear Dogs roam." Set against the urban backdrop of London, all elements of humanity in Crudle to Grove are diminished: "the platform is oozing bodies



The less welcoming face of Cardiff

maggots going nowhere". There's the requisite grim description of the murder victim, recreating that Hollywood moment when the tarpaulin is pulled back from the cadaver. "It is a face she knows, can't The writing.)

The whispers of Blythe's characters "echo as loud a gunshots", and Creer's back. doesn't look human."

Like Williams, Creer - as is traditional in the genre - deploys some literal noir, creating a character who would in the original lingo have been called a "negro". The genre has always had its fair share of hlack writers (like Himes or back into the corridor. The Mosley), using skin colour as a

for white writers, the black character becomes an expression of the Other something exciting or threatening. Creer's Ruben King is an artist, an overtly risqué and sexual being who scrapes away at white, bourgeois pretence: "his words are like a knife that doesn't cut".

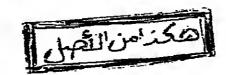
If the hard-boiled has easily

accommodated different skin colours, women have normally been introduced only as femmes fatales or lust-interests. Unusually, both Blythe and Creer have strong central female characters. Blythe's Faith is a magnetic character, the centre of a group of college friends; and Creer's novel revolves around Annie, rebuilding her life after job dismissal and

Because these "modern" women are not victims but loose, drug-taking types, the novels lose no machismo but gain bitchiness ("Doesn't she do graphs of her cellulite level? asks Faith). This is the Nineties version of noir, less male-dominated but still abounding in cynicism, a world in which (to use Chandler's phrase) characters look at each other "with the clear innocent eyes of a cou-

NEW AUTHORS PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED MRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO

ple of used car salesmen".



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Scary tales of an old spice world

Aromatics used to be the only way to modify our food, and maritime nations fought to gain control of the trade. Charles Nicholl catches a whiff of history

he "spice race" - the battle between European powers for control of the spice-producing islands of the East Indies – has a sound of aromatic romance about it, but the reality was a story of greed and violence, of high risks and astronomical profits. It is this story that Giles Milton's entertaining new book sets out to tell. The Nathaniel of the title is a doggedly courageous sea-captain, Nathaniel Courthope, who raised the English flag on a tiny island called Run in 1616.

The medieval European spice market had been dominated by Venice, with its close trading links with Constantinople and points east. During the 16th and 17th centuries, efforts were made by the new maritime nations - Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and England - to break this monopoly by getting straight to the source and cutting out the Venetian middle-man. The discovery of the New World was an early by-product of this quest: the landmass of America was, indeed, an obstacle to the proposed new route to the Spice Islands. Magellan set out on his great circumnavigation of the globe in 1519-22 with the precise intention of solving this geographical problem.

The Spice Islands were specifically the Moluccas, a scattering of islands at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, where sub-tropical microclimates created the perfect conditions for arboreal thoroughbreds such as Myristica fragrans. This tall, laurel-like tree produces a lemonsized fruit, the dried seed of which is nutmeg. The word is a truncated anglicisation of the French noix mugelé, which in turn comes from the Latin nux muscuta, or the "musky nut".

In early 17th-century England, nutmeg might be called the spice of choice. It had been used in England long before that, of course: Chaucer's Sir Topaz liked to sprinkle some into his ale; cooks used it with meat, both as a preservative (it slows down the oxidisation process) and as a mask for rottenness; and it was endowed with the usual range of curative and aphrodisiac properties. But in Elizabethan times nutmeg acquired a new cachet, for a "pomander of ontmeg" was trumpeted by the physicians and quacksalvers as a sovereign remedy against the plague

Milton's book focuses on the jockeying



Nathaniel's Nutmeg by Giles Milton Hodder & Stoughton, £12.99, 388pp

hard to imagine just how difficult to obtain certain foodstuffs were, and how immensely profitable they became as a result. In the early 17th century, 10lbs of nutmegs purchased for less than a penny in the Banda Islands - the small group in the southern Moluccas where the nutmegtree grew most profusely - could be sold in London for £2 10s: a mark-up of 60,000 per cent, comparable to today's drug-trade figures. Pepper, meanwhile, climbed in price to 8 shillings per lb. (To put this into context, a skilled labourer counted himself lucky to earn 5 shillings a week.)

This was the kind of bottom-line which fired the captains and mariners of the spice race, and the merchant-adventurers of the East India Company which bankrolled them. After much prevarication, the Company's charter was signed by Queen Elizabeth on 31 December 1600, granting its founder members - 218 in all - exclusive rights over "traffic and merchandise" in the Fast Indies.

Getting the royal signature was only a small part of the problem. The East India voyage was fraught with dangers, and the Dutch - though nominally the allies of England - were tough and, when need arose, brutal opponents. The various Moluccan headmen played off both sides of this colonial invasion as well as they could,

In the first 10 years of the East India Company, three English expeditions set out. Out of 12 vessels, four sank or disappeared; and out of an estimated 1,200 crewmembers, two thirds died, mostly of the endemic shipboard diseases of scurvy, typhoid and the "bloody flux", or dysentery. Only one ship, James Lancaster's Ascension, actually reached the Dutch communicater Jun Pietr fabled Banda Islands, and only one Engbetween the English and the Dutch for lish "factory" (or depot) was established, at Bantam on Java.



The Dutch land on Staten Island in 1641

this colonial spice-war; the efforts of Caotain Nathaniel Courthope to claim for England the tiny atoll of Run, whose mountainous interior yielded an annual harvest of over 300,000lbs of nutmegs. He guided his ship, the 400-ton Swan, through the treacherous reefs of Run in December 1616, and held out against overwhelming odds for four years, before a Dutch hullet killed him in late 1620. It is a story of great, if doomed, courage. The torture of both English and Oriental captives by the

Unfortunately - and herein lies a weakness of Milton's book - we learn very lit-All this is the context for what Milton the about the eponymous Nathaniel the venal rivalry between the English and

takes to be the central English episode of. Courthope, Nothing seems to be known about his life prior to this episode, except that he had been in the region before. We have no idea where he hailed from, how old he was, or what he looked like. It is possible that diligent research might have filled the first two of these lacunae. As it is. Courthope remains firmly anchored to the rather bland tones of his journal, which is to be found, among hundreds of similar documents, in that mammoth compendium of travellers' tales, Purchas His Pilgrimes, edited by the Jacobean vicar Samuel Purchas and published in 1925. and feel like Daya Sobel's Confidence. The subtile, "how one man's courage, whose unexpected success out of a slim

changed the course of history", is also rather dubious. What it boils down to is that

Dutch in the East Indies was a factor in their later confrontations in North America, including the wresting of Manhattan Island from the Dutch. Courthope played a part in this background, but was hardly a prime cause, and it is anyway debatable how far the creation of New York out of New Amsterdam changed the world. Both these complaints concern the

packaging of the book. They may perhaps be addressed to the publishers rather than the author, since the overall thrust is obyions. The book is supposed to look, sound volume of obscure history has become something of a grail among publishers. The fact is that Longitude had precisely

what this book lacks: a strong, welldocumented and very human protagonist. Nonetheless, Milton narrates with an easy and readable style the story of these English adventurers among the atolls and skerries of the Moluccas.

I particularly liked the chapter about William Keeling, commander of the Red Dragon, who beguiled the long voyage to the Spice Islands in 1607 by indulging his passion for the theatre.

When the fleet stopped off to restock its provisions on the coast of Africa, his crew actually put on a production of Hamlet. This performance among the mangroveswamps of Sierra Leone must surely be the first production of a Shakespearean play outside Europe.

Stop the capital depreciation

LITERARY FESTIVALS SPICOUT these days in plate-glass libraries or colonnaded market halls right across the land. Yet the capital of English letters has never thrown a writers' party of its own. All that will change between 19 and 28 March, when the first London Festival of Literature, "The Word", unites 66 authors (half from the UK, half from abroad) in a 10-day "carnival celebration" of writing. So far, London's fictional fabric so cheerily upbeat. The Word's ambitious programme - with huminaries stretching from Germaine Greer and Terry Pratchett to Toni Mor-

and warm welcome. But something about this fairground-barker style contradicts the literary essence of the host city. Especially in its incomparably rich fiction, London writing likes to dwell on secrets and silences; on mystery and murk. The old pea-souper fog, after all, survived as a handy metaphor ong after Clean Air Acts had

rison - deserves a fair wind

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN

has fallen into disrepair

From the Charles Dickens of Oliver Traist to the Martin Amis of The Information. London novelists plunge into private worlds that unfold in shadows, not in spotlights. Here in the Smoke, every culture turns into a subculture.

The new issue of Granta (London: the lives of the city; £8.99) confirms this metropolitan taste for hidden and hermetic tales. This must count as one of the magazine's

strongest numbers, with 350 pages that encompass Gra-ham Swift, Hanif Kureishi, Helen Simpson, Will Self, Philip Hensher and many others, along with favourite "London Views" depicted by the likes of Julian Barnes, Penelope Lively and Iain Sinclair, who hymns the "molten apocalypse" of Docklands.

For the London writer,

nothing that matters exists merely on the surface. Dale Peck offers a gay expat's view of secret East End trysting grounds; Ferdinand Dennis investigates his own past to solve the "puzzle" of the allegorical Africans carved on the Albert Memorial; Jay Rayner meets Shirley Porter to discover the why, as well as the how, of her Westminster gerrymandering, Ian Parker unmasks the concealed cops who monitor London traffic: the Kew housewife in Helen Simpson's story reads millennial prophecies into the planes that stack overhead. And Will Self imagines Lon-

don bricks as arcane texts, "the spines of buried tablets, covered in cuneiform script". To crack these codes, we

need access to the books that

may decipher them. Yet many metropolitan classics have fallen into out-of-print limbo. Skim through the excellent new Waterstone's Guide to London Writing (£3.99), and the phrase "not currently in print" tolls like Bow bells on every other page. Michael Moorcock's Mother London; Colin MacInnes's seminal Absolute Beginners trilogy, Henry Green's great London novels; Derek Raymond's noir masterpiece I was Dora Sucrez: publishers' disdain for their own backlists has killed these and other major works.

It is like reading the list of buildozed City churches, and just as dismal a record of cultural vandalism. A tiny fraction of the Lottery money now spent on London bricks and mortar could restore the capital's literary fabric. Time for strong words at The Word?

A meal of lame males

Jack O'Sullivan has had his fill of masculine guilt. Time for a lie-down?

MY GREAT regret about broken relationships with girlfriends used to be lost history. They seemed to take my emotional past with them, memories of feelings they helped me artic-ulate and to which only they held the key. Male relationships contained other treasures, but were not where these secrets were revealed.

"Without women, men are bereft," writes Jonathan Rutherford, taking up this theme of dependency. They lose the story of their lives." In-deed, as Rutherford's title suggests, he believes that, in the absence of women, men cannot access their own humanity. Our masculinity exiles us from ourselves. The consequence, he believes, of such an inadeouacy is that men feel uncomfortably needy of women. So we plough prodigious amounts of energy into escaping. "Men," he argues, "have celebrated being alone in order to imagine them-



1 Am No Longer **Myself Without You:** an anatomy of love by Jonathan Rutherford Flamingo, £12.99, 184pp

selves free of women, free from their vulnerability." In this need also lies, he suggests, a hatred

that some men feel for women. Our emotional vulnerability leads us to divorce sex from love. We dare not link sexual desire with emotional need. To do so is too dangerous, leaving us prey to umbearable loss. So, for example, we rely on porno-

Here, unlike in the real world, women are willing to be the objects of desire rather than the subjects of love... The woman in pornography is men's defence against their own need and their disquiet that desire ends in the extinction of the self."

This book, like much modern

writing about men, is rather deessing and self-flagellating. There is plenty of guilt; perhaps worse, blame is leavened by an almost biological determinism. Our predicament, concludes Rutherford, is that we are doomed never to get over the loss of our mothers. Such a fatalistic tone means that although his descriptions of some male traits ring true, his con-clusions render one passive.

The book lacks any inspiration for revolution. Rutherford seems to believe that all a poor bloke can hope for is to find a good woman, throw his lot in with her and hope for the best

graphic images of women. as a dependent. I profoundly disagree. My recommendation for any man who has difficulty gaining access to a sense of his own self is to find a good therapist, I did. It works. The process can take a long time and there are lots of awful practitioners. But it's better than spending your life with an emotional limp while looking for

> a female pair of crutches. As a result, I reclaimed my own history. Once you do this, you can still love women without being utterly destroyed by their absence.

Rutherford also fails to realise that it is possible for a man, fust like a woman, to internalise many of his mother's skills and, where a father may have been lacking, to fill in the missing bits. We are not doomed by biology, childhood or culture. Sadly, books like this neglect the great inheritance of masculinity - a history of personal power and change.

Discover the world from home

MASSIVE SAVINGS

when you join

world*books*

See page 33

THE INDEPENDENT magazine

Shining hours with the divine dishwashers

Alison Joseph praises the modern women who went looking for God – and found Her behind convent walls



New Habits by Isabel Losada Hodder & Stoughton. £7.99, 196pp

SOMETIMES I think that God only uses human beings to force her way down here in some way... by changing yourself a lot of prayers can be answered." This book is full of surprises. Sister Rose, quoted above, is one of 10 women interviewed, all novice nuns who have given up their former lives to join a convent. Isabel Losada first got the idea when one of her friends announced that she was going to become a mm. So intense was the response - "You can't be serious!"; "Will they lock you up?"; "Do you hate sex?" - that Losada decided to find out more. She visited a convent, expecting a

laughter and peace. Why would these women

lationships to wear, in some cases, medieval habit, to swear vows of poverty, chastity and obedience; and, in enclosed orders, to shut themselves away with only a rare annual holiday in which to see their families? Losada has allowed the sis-

ters to talk at length, and the results are searching and honest. Yes, celibacy can be hard. Yes, obedience can be even harder. "Before we put the plates to the dishwasher we wash them, and then afterwards we dry them. Why do we need to dry them? and I still wanted to be a nun."

"joyless silence." She found If you leave them for just a few minutes, they'll get dried on their own. God will dry them. give up homes, cars, jobs, re- But no, it's community. So we dry them."

All the women have taken different paths, yet a common picture emerges: of childhoods spent feeling something was missing; of young adults who felt set apart from friends. "One day my family were all sitting discussing what we had wanted to do when we grew up and someone said, 'When Judy was four she wanted to be a nun!' And everybody roared with laughter... I thought, Oh help, what am I going to do? I was 20

Some stumbled upon the religious life through a TV documentary, or wandering into a church, or, in Sister Esther's case, through a vision. What all 10 women have in common is a sense of being, in some way, called "to be ourselves, only

more so", as Sister Julie says. What are we to make of this, those of us living in the secular world, confronted by women who quite openly discuss their dialogue with God? Their language of faith sits uneasily within contemporary discourse of individual desire, tempting us perhaps to attribute the leanings of these women to some kind of subconscious urge pro- to allow God to be She.

jected on to an idea of God. This is why Losada has chosen so wisely to remove herself from the book. For the women's words shine through with such clarity that we are drawn into a world where God's love can be discussed in absolute terms.

Indeed, perhaps it is somehow appropriate, at the end of the millennium, to find a book that gives voice to our human yearning, to this sense of our incompleteness, our desire to be "more fully ourselves". After all, the same language has been spoken in monastic communities for centuries; it has just taken all those same centuries

INSPIRATIONS WRITER DAVID LODGE

The place

San Francisco and the Bay Area - the perfect marriage of culture and nature. The city offers sophisticated urban pleasures, but in half an hour you can drive across the Golden Gate Bridge into Marin County, with its sandy beaches and redwood forests. Across the Bay Bridge in another direction is Berkeley, home to one of the greatest universities, and some of the cleverest people, in the world.

The play The first production of John Osborne's Look Back in Anger at the Royal Court Theatre in 1956 was like a trumpet blast, announcing the advent of a new literary generatioo that was rebellious without being pretentious, and articulate without being posh. I saw it as a serviceman on leave, fresh from being ordered about by types like Nigel, the chinless wonder from Sandhurst.

The film A Matter of Life and Death by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger had a powerful effect oo me when I saw it in adolescence in the late Forties. The opening sequence, in which the British fighter pilot in his



young WAAF speaking to him by radio fall in love. gets a grip on the viewer which is never relaxed.

Ford Madox Brown's The Last of England, in the Birmingham Art Gallery A young couple look sadly out of the frame, from the deck of a boat taking them to a new but uncertain life in the colonies. The · woman holds the tiny fingers of an infant concealed under her cloak: You can invent your own story about what has brought them to this pass.

The music It's hard to beat Elgar for emotionally stirring music. I will plump for the Eniama Variations. Listening to Nimrod on my Walkman, in a jet descending through. spectacular canyons of sunlit cloud, somewhere over California, I count as one of the most sublime experiences of my life.

David Lodge's play 'Home Truths' is published by Secker, £6.99

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST

Unofficial Countryside



FIRST PUBLISHED in 1973, this book is a revelation: beautifully written observation of how nature has taken root, built nests or dug dens in forgotten tracts of our urban sprawi. Mabey spots a 5ft marijuana plant in a Dagenham dump, a kestrel on Selfridge's roof and the "high-voltage spark" of a kinefisher in a wintry canal Noting that we have the Luftwaffe to thank for the spread of Rose Bay Willow Herb (if likes scorched earth), Mabey defends the right of the giant hogweed and the "blase and disdainfully elegant" fox to share our habitat. What a shame that this reissue is saddled with a dull cover and a high price.

Mango Review, £6.99.

AFTER THE end of a fruitiess with thirty something Eloise decides to retreat from the world on a perman hasis. Ensconced in a country cottage bought with her dead parents' money she stocks up her freezer with Sainsbury's exotica, hides from the millonan and develops a bad case of piles. Six years on, a roguish American poet called George gets round to missing his old girlfriend and flies back to London, A masterly study in low-level despair, Ellmann's ripely humorous writing is as anarchic as the emotional states she so satisfyingly describes.

by George

AN ENJOYABLE oral biography of the

its zenith with In Cold Blood before

spluttering out in excess, aborted

projects and vicious gossip. As one

type." Opinions vary from Mailer'a appraisal that "he wrote the best

sentences of our generation" to Gore

Vidal's view that his death was "a good

to put him in your pocket and take him

home." You can do it with this book,

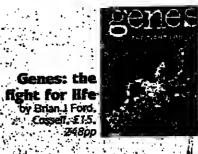
career move". But Bogart said "You want

enfant terrible whose trajectory reached

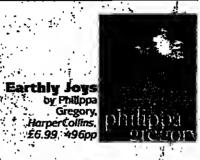
observer notes: "It's one thing to tell the

nastiest story to 50 friends, it's another

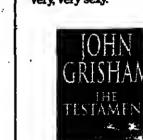
to set it down in cold Century Expanded



IN HIS fascinating report from the new frontiers of micro-biology, Ford urges calition in genetic engineering: "Plants may be easy to recover [if something goes wrong! but escaped genes are not." He [notes that many unnatural creations ("farm crops and domestic animals") are already with us: "If geneticists had produced a pekinese, the media would be up in arms." Ford marvels at the variety and autonomy of the cell. Self-sacrifice is displayed by single-celled organisms, even ours: "Within human adults, cells make their own decisions." Altruism, as well as selfishness, is in our genes.



TULIPS ARE popping up everywhere in books at the moment. Philippa Gregory's latest historical novel retells the life of royal gardener John Tradescant, alman who spent the equivalent of the crown jewels on these precious blooms. A favourite of successive courts from Elizabeth I through to Charles I, Tradescant is portrayed by Gregory as a rabid perfectionist, whose one weakness is to fall under the influence of the infinitely poovey Duke of Buckingham. Everything you could want from the genre: grand settings, romance and adventure and some reassuringly stilted dialogue.



JOHN GRISHAM's style of thriller writing is very different from le Carré's. Instead of gradually showing us different sides of characters who will . inexorably direct the plot, he offers a cast of instant stereotypes: a bitter millionaire on his deathbed, a greedy herd of dissolute ex-wives and wastrel children towing and towed by money-grubbing lawyers, a flawed hero with a severe drink problem and an impossibly perfect heroine a missionary in Brazil who doesn't even want the \$13 billion her unknown father leaves her. Can it end happily? You won't be able to resist listening on to find out.

ERRATA BENNET

A CORNEY STORT ABOUT AN ISLAND OF SEDIMINIAMI KUCK, CALCAREOUS ALGAE AND AMULBAL

THE PHENOMENAL WORLDWIDE FLOP!



who depicts banknotes.

The Last

by Alison Lurie.

Vintage, £6.99.

Resort

JENNY IS that endangered species, a woman happy to be a wife. She has

devoted her life to her husband, the

famous naturalist Wilkie Walker, but as-

another East Coast winter draws in, she

finds her husband becoming withdrawn;

after much persuasion she gets him to ahandon his LL Bean dressing gown for a winter break in Key West. Exploring the

gaps between what people say and what

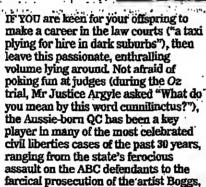
they mean, Lurie lets the Wilkie Walkers

loose on the Key's more exotic sun decks

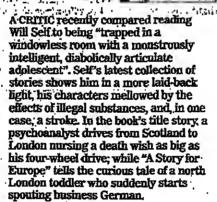
with unexpectedly liberating results.

gratification at its most exquisite.

Lurie's first covel in 10 years - delayed









-1810 Wit :.. OSBORNE OFFERS a knowledgeable guide to a milieu that will be terro incognita to many. We learn that activities in the toilets can be more energetic than on the dancefloor. But the author is pushing his luck to say that Larry Levan (née Laurence Philpot) was "possibly the most influential DJ of all time." More than Alan Freed, who invented the term "rock'n'roll"? Osborne includes entries on Club 54 and Northern Soul, but mainly this book is for the E generation. Osborne's warning is less than trenchant: "Like cigarettes, alcohol and red meat, Ecstasy can be fatal."

BESTSELLERS

Four hundred and fifty-one happy toddlers will be chomping their way through the recipes in Annabel Karmel's Baby Meal Planner this week, as the doyenne of nursery food maintains ber place in the cookery lists.

2 (2)

3 (3)

4 (-)

5 (4)

6 (8)

7 (7)

9 (5)

10 (6)

Nigel, Delia, Rick and Ken should all be thrilled at the thought of a generation . of foodie children limbering up to buy their future books. Star of the show, however, must be Anna Pavord's glorious-looking The Tulip which,

despite costing a befty £30, keeps on inching up the lists. By next week it . should have outstripped John Grisham Compiled by Bookwatch on sales over seven days ending 14 February 1999 c Bookwatch Ltd 1999

ORIGINAL FICTION

AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WHERLY SALES
John Grisham (Century)	£16.99	15,781
Josie Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	9.831
Patricia D Cornwell (Little, 8rown)	£16.99	2,151
lan Rankin (Orion)	£9.99	1.835
Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan)	£5.99	1.809
Kate Thompson (Bantam)	£5.99	1,539
Tom Clancy (Penguin)	£5.99	1,482
Boris Starling (HarperCollins)	£5.99	1,452
	£5.99	1 405
Patricia Scanlan (Bantam)	£5.99	1,148
	John Grisham (Century) Josie Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow) Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown) Ian Rankin (Orion) Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan) Kate Thompson (Bantam) Tom Clancy (Penguin) Boris Starling (HarperCollins) T R Bowen (Penguin)	John Grisham (Century) £16.99 Josie Lloyd & Ernlyn Rees (Arrow) £5.99 Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown) £16.99 Lan Rankin (Orion) £9.99 Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan) £5.99 Kate Thompson (Bantam) £5.99 Tom Clancy (Penguin) £5.99 Boris Starling (HarperCollins) £5.99 T R Bowen (Penguin) £5.99

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	MICKELY SALES
Station X: the codebreakers	Michael Smith (Channel 4)	£14.99	5,763
Men Are From Mars	John Gray (Thorsons)	£8.99	5,697
Birthday Letters	Ted Hughes (Faber)	£14.99	3,916
Little Book of Feng Shui	Lillian Too (Element)	£1.99	3,285
The Little Book of Love	Various (Penguin)	£1.99	3,013
The Year 1000	Robert Lacey & Danny Danziger (Little, Brown)	£12.99	2,951
Seafood Odyssey	Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	2,714
Notes From a Big Country	8ill Bryson (Doubleday)	£16.99	1,817
Della's How to Cook	Delia Smith (8BC)	£16.99	1,790
The Little Book of Calm	Paul Wilson (Penguin)	£1.99	1,717
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			

COOKERY/GARDENING/DIY/HOUSEHOLD

TITLE	AUTHOR/FUBLISHER	PEICE	WEEKLY SALES
Rough Guide: the internet 1999	Angus Kennedy (Rough Guides)	£5 ,	4.067
Little Book of Feng Shul	Lillian Too (Element)	£1.99	3,285
Seafood Odyssey	Rick Stein (BBC)	£18.99	2,714
Delia's How to Cook	Della Smith (BBC)	£16.99	,1,790
Ground Force: weekend workbox	k Alan Titchmarsh (BBC)	£9.99	1,576
The Low Fat Cookbook	Rosemary Conley (Century)	£16.99	.1,018
The Tulip	Anna Pavord (Bloomsbury)	£30	1,004
Ken Hom Cooks Thai	Ken Hom (Headline)	£18.99 ,	476
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Laugh? They really tried

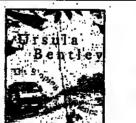
In search of funny fiction, Susan Jeffreys travels stony-faced from medieval crypt to stately home - but finds her comic grail in a loft

OF THESE three comic novels. Ursula Bentley's is the one with the wham-bang start. A dead father in his coffin, an incestuous brother and sister kneeling before the catafaique and a mystery blonde bidding farewell to the dear departed. In the background is a feudal thug with a dodgy road-haulage business, some nasty secrets and the realisation that dead dad may have been up to no good. Soon, though, the book is mired down in mortgage prob-lems, residential fees in old people's homes and thoughts

on hygiene in the middle ages. Brother and sister are an unlikeable duo but not in an interestingly villainous way. Tim is a drip with a dicky hip; Arden, the sister, is like a cow with a truncheon. Together they live in their father's old cottage. Tim gets bits of work doing accounts and Arden ranges the countryside bullying middle-aged women into buying knitwear

It seems that long ago their dead father stole a statue of St Louis. That and other murky developments have Arden and her son Bosworth on a mission to the continent. Various skeletons are pulled out of cupboards as the whole plot comes to its woolly end. Some heavy editing and a thorough rewrite

could have done wonders here. If Ursula Bentley has drawn from her experience for the less gothic bits of the book, Wendy. Holden has drawn deeply from hers for the far frothier Simply

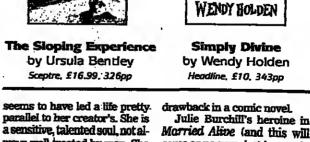


The Sloping Experience by Ursula Bentley Sceptre, £16.99; 326pp

cracks along to its happy ending.

It never makes you laugh,





a sensitive, talented soul, not al-Married Alive (and this will ways well treated by men. She come as no surprise) is a workis far cleverer, it goes without ing-class girl from the West Country enjoying a disastrous saying, than the airhead debs who work with her on the glossy marriage along with huge amounts of drugs and booze. magazines Gorgeous and Fubulous. Jane is terribly loyal to her She has certainly followed that well-worn advice "write about what you know", but there's a chums, and an all-round absolute brick - although a tiny bit inclined to run to fat. ! lot to be said in fiction for mak-Terrible puns are strewn ing things up. All this material from your own life is fine, but through the book as Jane takes vou're producing novels here, on the task of ghost-writing

the column of society bimbette girls, not patchwork quilts. Burchill takes us on anoth-Champagne D'Vyne. She also embarks on the job of restoring er voyage round her father and lays out her working-class the crumbling splendour of her credentials. The plot doesn't friend Tally's stately home. stand up to much scruting, as Tally's mother is having an our heroine Nicole brings her affair with an American Indian called Big Morn, and the old gran to live with her in a loft stately home must be sold. apartment in Docklands while Efficiently written, the novel the din of marital battle roars

around gran's head.

Orlon, £9.99, 192pp book, such as an account of a nurse on the very edge: "I don't know if she'd been working on a birth, or an abortion, or a painful death. But her wild eyes, and the purply sheen on her brown skin, signalled one thing: that she'd been out there the night before to a place where most of us won't go until we're forced there." There are famny bits too (Gran's "daily round of gracious living - shurping from her saucer, picking her corns and flicking them into my Etruscan urns") and great aperçus: "cocaine and cham-

Wat Les

Burchill

Married Alive

by Julie BurchIII

pagne aiways look like life's little luxuries, never whiteknuckle necessities". Old Jules has also used scraps of her life, but has sewn them together with razor-wire and backed it all with her fierce salty wit. Baleful, angry, with a manic energy, this is the page But Burchill can write, Daz-turner of the three novels, and though always something of zling passages light up the the one that makes you laugh.

SPOKEN WORD

CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

Single & Single read by John le Carré Hodder. 6hrs, £14.99

SINCE SO much of the texture of a John le Carré book is built up in its details, you might think that an abridgement of his latest novel could only be a mistake. There are times when I felt a little cheated: le Carré must have written much more about the jovial Georgian heavies who lurk so menacingly on the sidelines, and the characters of the father and son whose relationship is at the heart of this novel are left too thinly drawn. But what makes it all worthwhile is John le Carré's masterful reading: fastidious and mellifluous as narrator, skilfully varied when his characters are speaking, and yes, very, very sexy.



The Testament read by Henry Leyva Random House, 6hrs. £12.99



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OUNTRY & GARDEN

Alone in the killing fields

COUNTRY MATTERS



DUFF HART-DAVIS

ith only a week to go, woodland deer-stalkers all over the country are scrambling to reach the targets set for their annual cull. Male red, fallow and sike deer remain in season for another couple of months; but when it comes to controlling numbers it is the females that matter, and their season closes at the end of February.

It is a curious fact that while many species of birds and animals are struggling to survive in Britain, deer are flourishing as never before. In the Scottish Highlands the number of red deer has risen to an alltime high of 350,000, mainly because winters have turned so mild that natural mortality has been greatly reduced, and stalkers cannot shoot enough to keep the population stable. In English woodlands harsh weather rarely claims many victims, but otherwise the story is much the same: deer keep increasing and spreading, and in many areas they are causing serious damage to trees and farm crops.

My own main interest is in fallow deer, which come out on to farmland to feed at night, and return to cover at or soon after first light. The best time to catch them in the open is just as dawn is breaking.

So it was that on Sunday night I set my alarm clock for 5,20am and went to bed hoping that Monday would dawn dry. When I looked out, the sky was full of stars; a great start. As always, there were many things to remember before take-off feed Jemima, my young Labrador, make a quick cup of coffee, assemble rifle, bolt, ammunition, knife, rope for dragging, cap, gloves, binoculars, stick. Then it was into the Jeep and away for the 25-minute drive to the estate on which I cull



Fallow deer come out on to farmland to feed at night and return to cover soon after first light. The best time to kill them is at dawn

time to lose. Two minutes later I stopped in a gateway under some trees, got out, loaded five rounds into the .243, and set off for a high seat on the upper edge of a steeply wood-ed bank, looking out over fields.

Rain had fallen earlier in the night, but frost had come down in the small hours, and the grass of the woodland ride crunched slightly underfoot. Jemima, though still not a year old, has learnt the form brilliantly, and followed silently at heel, sitting down whenever I stopped, lying flat if I crouched.

We approached the high seat warily, on a path that winds wohill Half a mile short, I stopped on a through fir trees. By the time I'd stretch of open lane to test the sneaked up the ladder to the platwind. A cold breeze was blowing form, the horizon was flaring deep from the north - ideal for my pur- orange, and I didn't need binoculars poses. Away to my right the horizon to pick out the five black shapes silhad already started to lighten. No houetted against the blaze of dawn,

Three does and two fawns. By now ant was a big dog fox, mousing.

last year's fawns have stopped feed
On, then, beside the wall separing from their mothers, and are easily mature enough to survive on their own. So - three perfect targets.

Immediate action! Not so fast. The beasts were on : the skyline; a bullet would probably go straight through any one of them stopped to look back. By then I was and on across country.

my right, moving on a few steps at ground safe? Yes or no? Yes, I held a time. If only they'd turn towards: the cross of the telescopic sight, the wood and head my way! But no; steady on her heart and squeezed without any inkling of danger, they the trigger.

Under the clear sky, the light was to my left. I put Jemima on a lead strengthening by the minute, Back and came down to the place where on the ground, I hustled towards and they'd been standing. No body. But other promising field and came can deep often run after a heart-shot, and tionsly up behind a stone wall to scan on that steep slope a stricken beast

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ating field on my right from wood on my left. Suddenly in the trees a stick cracked. We'd been spotted. I looked. over the wall. Six does and fawns were charging downhill through the trees. A hundred yards off, they kneeling, rifle levelled over the wall. The deer were grazing towards. One doe was standing clear Back-

into safety over the curve of the hill __ wheeled, fled and vanished downhill

by the bullet) and spots of blood. Nothing. Had I missed? For 100 yards we followed the tracks of the group, angling downhill through ash and hazel. Jemima was heaving like the back of a hippo. mightily on her lead, but there was

still no blood, and I assumed that in

her inexperience she was scenting

the whole bunch, rather than a

wounded animal.

Back to the impact point for a more thorough search. Jemima, let go, put her nose to the ground and began working methodically in the office the direction of the stope. Soon she disappeared into the valley, way below me.
After a while I followed - and when she came back, three or four min-

Obviously she'd been in the river to our elusive target.

CLASSIC

VICTORIAN

barely 90 yards out in front of me. the grass meadow. The sole occupThree does and two fawns. By now ant was a big dog fox mousing.

could have travelled a long way. I at the bottom, Surely she wouldn't searched for pins (bristles of hair cut have gone swimming on such a cold day unless drawn by some special bure? I went on down until water was showing through the trees. Scanning with binoculars, I picked up a smooth, rounded hump,

There was the doe, dead in the

stream. To extract it, I too had to go in, nearly waist-deep, wrestle the body ashore, then drag it 250 yards up a one-in-three slope rendered greasy as butter by weeks of rain. boots full of water, feet like ice. But Jemima had confirmed that she is a star in the making, and between utes later she was soaked to the skin. us we had moved one notch nearer

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NATURE NOTES

ROOKS KEEP extremely long hours. Of all diurnal birds they are the earliest on the wing, and also the last to go to roost. At this time of year their day begins with a great gathering or convocation: hundreds of them – maybe thousands, even - swarm into the air at first light and for several minutes fly round in an enormous cloud, giving off a terrific clamour and gradually gaining height,



A rook's habit of foraging until twilight is often its undoing

before dispersing into smaller but still large groups. What are they up to,

mustering like that and making such a racket? It is as though they are getting up steam and nerving themselves to go about the day's business. Rooks can be

distinguished from all-black carrion crows by the fact that they have bare, grey-white faces, and that they move around in flocks, rather than singly or in pairs. They feed on fields, eating seeds and other vegetable matter, as well as earthworms and a useful number of insects that are harmful to agriculture. Given the chance, they also eat carrion and the eggs of songbirds.

In the evening, rooks stay on the ground until it is almost dark, as if they need to forage for every available minute. This habit is often their undoing, for as dusk thickens foxes come out on the prowl, and many a rook furnishes Reynard with a good dinner.

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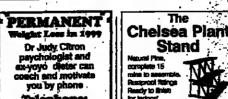
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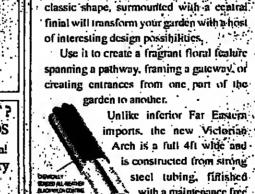
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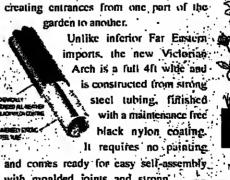
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The greenhouse at Brandy Mount House in Alresford, Essex, is chock-full of Michael and Caryl Baron's collections of floury leaved principles and choice pednies

The glory of a spring garden

While the trees are bare, Anna Pavord enjoys the elegant lines and splendid spring bulbs of a garden opened to the public

ate winter can be an unforgiving time, I'm not thinking of the piles of soggy foliage, melted evergreens battered by winds. I'm packed round with pine needles. thinking of the way winter reveals the bones of a garden. All the froth is shaken off and the overall design sings out love and clear Or should.

The trouble is that our particular climate and the journeys of Victorian explorers mean that we can grow an extraordinarily wide range of things. A garden can become littlemore than a horticultural stamp collection. But even the most beautiful plant shines better in the right setting. If a garden can combine good plants with good design, visitors get the best of both worlds.

fine collections of daphnes and snowdrops, a greenhouse packed with floury-leaved primulas and a choice selection of the more difficult kinds of peony. So there is no doubting their credentials as plantsmen.

11am. Admission 24.80.

Great Barfield, Brader But their garden, Brandy Mount House in Alresford, is well balanced in terms of its design, too.

A wide terrace in front of the bouse ends in a shallow raised bed packed with bulbs (sternbergias, hoop-petticoat daffodils) and some of Michael's more difficult miniature daphnes. A narrow, winding path leads between shrubs such as Rosa virginiana (brilliant red leaves in autumn) and the dogwood 'Midwinter Fire' (buff stems flaring into foxy orange-red), with a dense underplanting of cyclamen, ferns, rare snowdrops, corydalis and hellebores

informal beds at the back of the garby unexpectedly hard den. Here, under a fine stachyurus, are hellebores, cardamine, pulthat mounds up in corners from monaria and more rare cyclamen,

> To the right of the house is an intensive area of glass. When Caryl Baron gave up her job, she felt she had to have something "to combat Michael's snowdrops" so she began collecting Primula allionii, a tiny plant from the maritime Alps, and P marginata which is not much bigger.

> The next garden opening at Brandy Mount House, Alresford (01962 732189) is on Sunday 14 March (12pm-5pm) Admission £1.50

Other gardens to visit: Cliveden, Taplow, Maidenhead Tel: 01494 522234

The head gardener, Philip Cotton, is leading a guided walk tomorrow at Great Barfield, Bradenham Tel: 01494 563741 Richard Nutt's fine snowdrops, displayed among hellebores. Open to-morrow (2pm-5pm). Admission £1.50.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Anglesey Abbey, Lode Tel: 01223 811200 This 100-acre garden is home to 80 kinds of snowdrop. Open today and tomorrow (11am-4pm). Admission £3.

CORNWALL Lanhydrock, Bodmin Tel: 01208 73320 A Victorian granite mansion with a

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The lawn is thick with dwarf crofine, woodland garden. Early camcus, scillas and aconites, but with
clius, magnolias and carpets of day 22 Feb (10am 4pm). Admission £1.
daffodils. Open today and tomorrow. Tell perre 570314
luck you will get safely round to the
snowdrops. Open daily during day

(11-4). Admission £2.50.

Aplantsmants garden, full of tro

(11-4). Admission £2.50. luck you will get safely round to the snowdrops. Open daily during daylight bours. Admission £3.10.

species magnolias. Open daily in daylight, Winter admission £1. Little Cumbre, Pennsylvania Rd, Exeter (No phone calls, please) Haif an acre of mixed shrubs, with a newly acquired half acre of woodland. Open tomorrow (2pm-5pm).

Yonder Hill, Colaton Raleigh Tel: 01395 567541 Tranquil garden harmonising with a Basingstoke Tel: 01256 881337

GLOUCESTERSHIRE * Cinderdine Cottage, Dymock, near Newent, Tel: 01531 890265 Killerton, Broadclyst, Exeter: Unusual spowdrops, well tisplayed
Tel: 01392 881345 with heligibles, pulmountain and
Snowdrops, early crocuses and fine other early spring plants. Of the process magnolias. Open daily in morrow (12 m 5 pm). Admission 1.

> HAMPSHIRE Little Court, Crawley Tel: 01962 776365

Comfortable garden with hantams on the lawns. Flint walls, hellebores. Open tomorrow, Mon and Tues (2pm-5.30pm). Admission £2. The Vyne, Sherborne St John.

HEREFORDSHIRE ... The Weir, Swains Hill, Hereford Tel: 01345 125436 Steep garden beside the river Wye. Snowdrops, chionodoxas, violets, primroses. Open Wed-Sun (11am-6pm). Admission 52.

LINCOLNSHIRE Belton House, Grantham Tel: 01476 566116

Snowdrops and daffodils are naturalised in the garden of this 17th-century house, TV star of Pride and Prejudice and Tom Jones. Open tomorrow (11am-3pm) £5 per car.

A plantsman's garden, full of troughs of rare alimes. Open today and to-morrow (1: 41 Admission fi

NORTHERN IRELAND Castle Ward, Strangford, Co.Down Tel. 91396 881204 Fine trees, including wellingtonias and a multi-stemmed thuja. Open all year, dawn to dusk. Admission £1.75 per car.

Rowallane, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Co Down Tel: 01238-510131 .. Monterey and Scots pine, redwoods, red cedar, Douglas fir, an umusual podocarpus. Mon-Fri (10.30am-5pm). Admission £1.40.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Hodsock Priory, Blyth.

A one-way trail through Hodsock's Lacock Abbey, Lacock, famous snowdrops, ornamental dogwoods, winter-flowering honeysuckles, hellebores and Cyclomen coum. Open daily (10am-4pm). Admission £2.50.

STAFFORDSHIRE Moseley Old Hall, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 782808 Catkin-hung nut walk in a17th-century. garden. The knot garden is laid out

SURREY ... Polesden Lacey, ar Dorking Tel: 01372 458203 Magnificent setting on the north

in box. Open tomorrow (1.30pm-4pm), Admission 50p.

downs, with the wilder parts of the

acountes. Open daily (11-dusk). Admission £3. 9, Raymead Close, Fetcham

Tel: 01372 373728 Compact plantsman's garden. Good berries and winter bark. Open Sun 28 Feb (Ipm-4pm), Admission £1.50.

Chirk Castle, Chirk, Wrexham Tel: 01691 777701

A medieval Marcher fortress sheltered by great oaks. Fine yew topiary and snowdrops. Open today and tomorrow (12pm-4pm). Admission £1.

Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd Tel: 01248 353084 Queen Victoria visited this gigantic,

castle and planted a wellingtonia, which still survives. Open tomorrow (12pm-4pm). Admission £1.

near Chippenham Tel: 01249 730459 Romantic Victorian woodland garden carpeted with snowdrops, aconites, anemones and crocus. Open today and tomorrow (12-5). Admission £2. Stourhead, Stourton, Warminster Tel: 01747 841152

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Britain's most famous 18th-century landscaped garden: beech woods, temples and statues laid bare. Open daily (9am-dusk). Admission £3.40 (£4.50 after 1 March).

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, Ripon Tel: 01765 603888 Ornamental lakes, temples and cascades in an idealised landscape around a 12th-century Cistercian abbey. Open daily (10am-5pm) Admission £4.30.

CUTTINGS NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

questions. All lectures will be

held in the lecture room in the

laboratory building. Tickets (£5

for RHS members, £10 for non-

members) must be booked in

to the RHS, with a sae to the

WISLEY SURREY is the setting for the Royal Horticultural Society's next bonsai weekend (27-28 February). There will be lectures on the history of bonsai and demonstrations on the best way to grow them. Experts such as Colin Lewis and Peter Chan will be among the teachers and Su Chin Ee will be showing watercolours in the Chinese style. Several nurseries will set up displays in the demonstration shed next to the glasshouses

Admin Dept, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB. THE UNIQUE St Helena boxwood, thought to be extinct, has recently been rediscovered by Stedson Stroud, a resident of and the Surrey Heath Bonsai the island. He found just one bush alive among six dead ones on a slope facing the sea, 100 Society will put on a show. There will be bonsai plants for sale and experts to answer metres above sea level. It had

FAMILIARITY MAY not always

breed contempt, but it often breeds carelessness. Some of

the very best flowers for my

garden are under my nose (or

sometimes under the noses of

my friends and neighbours), yet

are the flowers of the "Algerian

iris", Iris unquicularis, and

how accommodating it is once

established, I feel ashamed

that I have it growing in only

one place in the garden, and

scarcely give it a thought from

one end of the year to the other.

Until it comes into flower, that

is, and then, for a brief moment,

I recognise how lucky I am.

nothing to do with the off-

most of my formative years, this

Iris stylosa, a name both mem-

orable and perfectly easy to say.

the "style" is united for an inch

above the flower base before it

breaks into three parts, which

is unusual whereas unquicu-

This carelessness has

When I think how beautiful

not been seen for 100 years, but Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, St Helena's Conservation Officer, has high hopes that scientists will be able to propagate the plant. The bush itself is infested advance. Send a cheque payable with mealy hug and moth larvae and is unlikely to survive, but seeds have been collected from it and cuttings taken. More than 40 per cent of the plants on St Helena are in danger of

disappearing for ever, giving the island the dubious distinction of having the world's most threatened flora. Mr Stroud's . discovery is a welcome reversal.

ANNA PAVORD garden covered in snowdrops and

When iris eyes are smiling

The Algerian iris is so exquisite that it deserves to be looked at closely. By Ursula Buchan

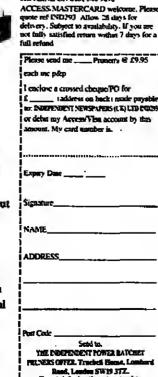


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A Mile	11/1/
Algerian iris: requires no	tuss from the gardener A-

Algerian iris is one of those "beardless" iris was known as no exhaustive and exhausting feeding or pruning regime, in fact nothing special at all. It (Stylosa refers to the fact that comes from countries which bound the Mediterranean, so it is used to hot dry summers and cool, wetter winters (which is why it flowers when it does) and

bases of the flower segments.) or make, an area of infertile, I think it is because the very gritty, preferably limy soil in a south-facing border, say, plants that require no song against the house wall, you and dance from the gardener, have solved its cultivation problems more or less permanently. If it doesn't flower well one year, it is much more likely to be because the summer before

So what is it like, this paragon of beauty thriving on his means "nail" or "claw" and emphatically does not need a neglect? It has flowers, 5-8cm each only lasts a few days, refers to the narrowness of the rich soil. Provided you can find, across when fully open, held on there is a succession of them

was sunless than because the

clump is overcrowded.

the end of long, 15cm, smooth stalks. Inside, the three "falls" (the petals that curve over) are hairless, light purple, but with the most delicate mauve feathering on a yellow background near the base; these lines might have been painted on by a Japanese flower artist of infinite skill. The three "standards" are also light purple while the three part "style" is mauve. The exterior of the petals, however, has the ivory pallor of a consumptive, and is thin enough for a hint of the feathering to show through. You see all that properly only when the flower is in bud and tightly furled like an umbrelia.

If you pick the stalk of an unopened flower close to ground level and bring the bud inside, the flower will open quickly in the warmth and reward you with a sweet scent that will last for a couple of days. This is the best way of examining the flower, or for painting it.

Flowers begin to unfuri in the clump that I have in the last days of December, and though

well into February. The exact flowering time depends where in the geographical range the ancestors of your plant were found. It may be as early as the autumn, or as late as February. The closely related species Iris lazica doesn't flower till March, and has shorter, broader foliage. As well as one or two rare

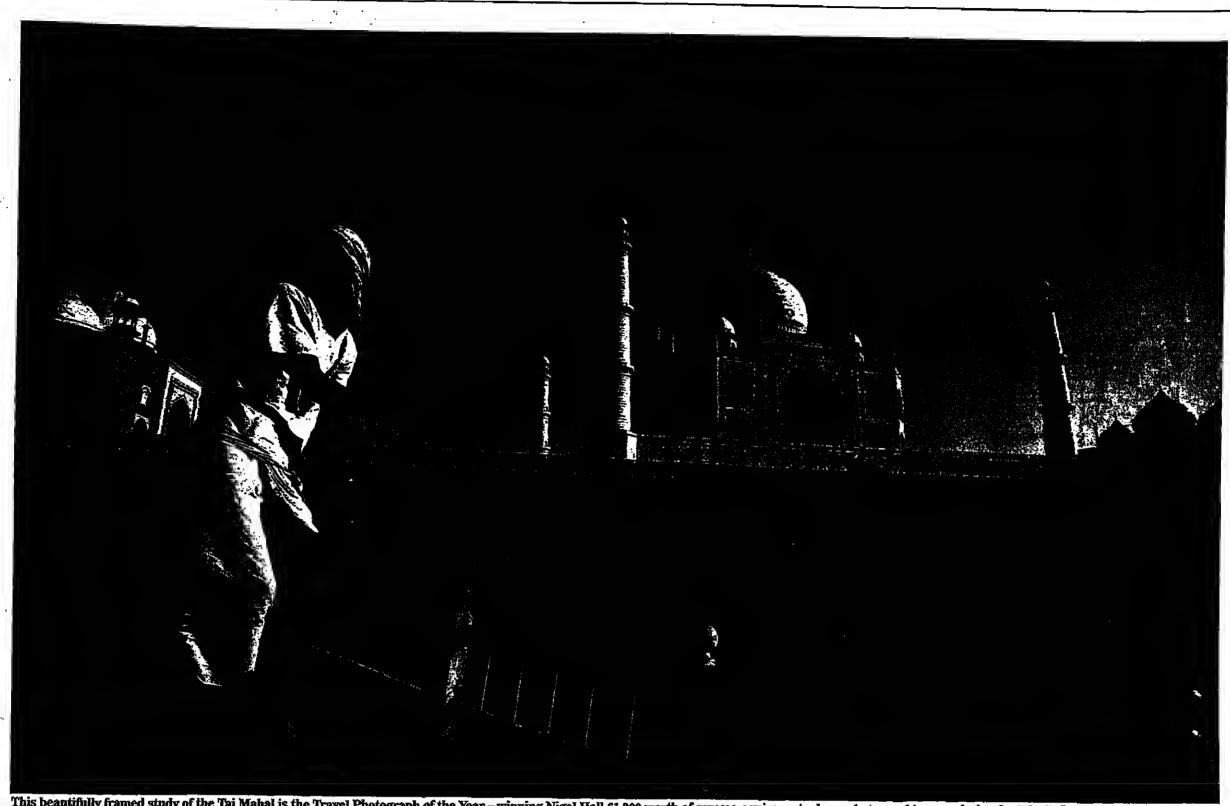
forms of Iris unquicularis, available only in a few specialist nurseries, there are three named selections that are widely sold. The first, Mary Barnard', is even more beautiful than the type because the colour is a deeper, more huxuriant purple. Paler and, to my mind, a little wishy washy, is Walter Butt', and there is a white-flowered form, 'Alba'. There is also a dwarf subspecies called cretensis. The best time to replant the rhizomes is in September, as soon as the autumn rains have started; these should be put into the soil a little deeper than you would the rhizomes of "bearded" irises, and in as large pieces as you can beg. If you are lucky, they will flower sparsely

.'..'

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write to rdepenuon Et 4 to allow mear

INDEPENDENT ADVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER: FROM THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TRAVEL SECTION THAT REFUSES FREE TRIPS



This beautifully framed study of the Taj Mahal is the Travel Photograph of the Year - winning Nigel Hall £1,200-worth of camera equipment, plus a photographic commission for 'The Independent'. The award was made yesterday at Destinations '99 at London's Earl's Court, where all 30 finalists' work is on display (open today and tomorrow 10am-5.30pm; admission £5). The competition is organised by 'Wanderlust' magazine in association with The Independent' and Canou. The judges were travel photographer Jack Jackson FRPS; Paul Morrison and Lyn Hughes, publisher and editor of 'Wanderlust'; Lucy Spencer of Destinations '99; and Simou Calder, travel editor of 'The Independent'. Mr Hall wins a Canon EOS5 SLR with a 28-135 IS lens, plus a Billingham Photo Rucksack and Ventile Photo Vest. Another finalist appears below, left.

Break for the border

We asked readers to nominate the scariest frontier crossing. You responded with hundreds of tales of fraught frontier formalities

WHAT AN irregular lot you are: the post-bag is bulging with tales of bureaucratic hot water and cold sweats at frontiers. Thanks to all who took part; here is a salutary selection. These three writers, together with readers who wrote first-rate accounts that we just couldn't squeeze in, win the latest edition of Wonderlust magazine - plus a unique passport-cover guaranteed to smooth your progress across (almost) any frontier.

and they controlled in abuse the place oben bed and

East Germany-Poland, 1975 I had gone through the Iron Curtain at the age of three ille-gally, a scary thrilling escapade. My mother and I escaped through the forest from Czechoslovakia into Austria. Border guards on motorbikes searched the forest with huge flashlights, but missed us as we hid

quivering behind tree-trunks. Now here I was in 1975, a quarter-century later, on a bus from London to Warsaw travelling with my three-year-old daughter. It was a very chilly dawn. The sight from the bus window looked like a Cold War movie set. I was very nervous.

We had to pass up our passports to the bus driver I noticed as I handed mine in that it was damp. I must have spilt something on it during the night. One of the border officials took the hunch of passports and took them up some steps to a room. "This shouldn't take long," the Polish bus driver said cheerily. We shivered and waited.

The driver couldn't understand what was taking them so long. Finally, the border official marched into the bus and started yelling at the driver, waving one of the passports. After a lot of gesticulating and more yelling, the driver turned to us and said, "you're not going to believe this, hut someone passed in a wet passport. The East Germans regard it as an insult to their government and won't let the bus through until the passport has dried!"

Someone piped up: "Who handed it in?" Ashamedly, I owned up, mumbling something about my child having



the visas.

Apart from getting lost in the

desert around the dried up

edges of Lake Chad and ending

up in a refugee camp, all went

in the road and ended up in Sarh

where we were arrested at a

police roadblock for having

forged visas. Six or seven

extremely young and well-armed soldiers piled into the

truck to escort us to the Minis-

ter of the Interior, who lived

some 150km away. The road was

extremely rough; though the

soldiers were not threatening,

we thought there was a very

shot or bayoneted when we

drove over a pothole. The Min-

ister of the Interior told us that

the Embassy in Algiers had

closed some years ago. We were

vestigated. He was extremely

hospitable, was not amenable to

our discreet offer of a bribe and

Raymond Jack, finalist in our phote competition spilt water on it. (How low can Chad, 1984

you sink when passing the buck?) "Then go and sort this out - if it wasn't for you we wouldn't be in this pickle!" I feit the accusing eyes. With a feeling of dread, I stood up and walked to the front of the bus.

I stepped off the bus and walked into the glare of the spotlights and across the Tarmac. I felt I was going to my execution. All around were guards, machine-guns at the ready. I flashed back to that dark night in the forest 25 years earlier. I entered the room and saw two officials with the pile

of passports, the wet one on top. I mimed that it was my fault, how it had nothing to do with insulting the East German government and could they please let us through? They started shouting at me in German so I yelled back in English. If I was going to be shot, the least I could do was shout back.

After more gesticulation and real risk of being accidentally toing and froing, they finally shoved the bunch of passports at me, marched me back to the bus, yelled at the driver that they didn't want this sort of thing happening again and to remain in the compound ordered us to get on our way. As until the matter could be inthe bus started to move, the engers cheered. I stumbled back to my seat

two days there would have been quite pleasant if we had not been so apprehensive about how long the investigation would take. Luckily for us, on the third morning two French journalists were brought in, having been arrested for having no passports and photographing the refugee camps. Our "crime" could not compare to this and after exchanging tokens of mutual esteem (the Minister's gift was a goat) we were escorted to the Central African Republic under armed guard and expelled from the country. JANE BRYANT

Spain-Portugal, 1990 Driving from Seville to Lisbon, there used to be 5km of "no-I was travelling overland from London to Nairobi via West man's-land" between the Span-Africa in a Bedford truck with ish and Portuguese customs nine other people. We had spent posts. Now that we are all a lot of time, and money, getting the necessary visas in Algiers. Europeople, there is a modern road and a smart new combined border facility shared by Eventually, a charming official processed our applications, the revenue-men of both nationalities charged us \$50 each and issued

We were generously provid-

ed with food and drink and our

On my last journey through by British-registered car, for technical reasons I had to establish my date of arrival in Portugal, Having initially been well until we took the wrong fork waved through by the Spanish funcionario, I therefore intentionally stopped at his Portuguese twin's sentry-box, only some 10 metres further on, to ask for an entry-stamp in

my passport. Curious to know why I wasn't hightailing it out of there like most other people, the Spaniard left his position to catch up with me and overhear my conversation with his opposite number.

Upon grasping my intent, he placed a firm hand on my shoulder and insisted that I return with him back to Spain, where he carefully and deliherately impressed my passport with a solido (exit) stamp, saying: "How can you enter Portugal unless you first leave Spain?". Politically cor-DR EVA CHAPMAN seemed pleased to have some rect and geographically correct.

ONE PROSIEOVA) one to talk to in the evenings.

TERRY EATON

EXPENSIVE BA DS not a nice way to begin a column, nor a newspaper advertisement. But that is how the Irish low-cost airline Ryanair has chosen to announce six new routes. accusing British Airways of greed and comparing its lowest fares with BA's.

The advertisements contrast Ryanair's midweek fares with those on BA. As you would expect, the Irish airline chooses the departure days to suit its purpose: travelling out from the UK on a Monday or Tuesday, returning on a Wednesday or Thursday. Those have to be the exact dates; a day earlier or later, and Ryanair's fares go up; if a Saturday intervenes, then BA's prices fall sharply.

You would expect an advertiser to choose the comparisons that suit its purpose. Ryanair also chooses not to mention that its flights depart from Stansted, while BA's leave from Gatwick and Heathrow - much more convenient for millions of travellers.

BA's fares include free meals and drinks, while on Ryanair you have to pay for anything more substantial than water.



SIMON CALDER

You'd imagine that Tirana, 1985, has little in common with Gatwick, 1999

Small considerations, you may think, since flying to Turin, for example, will cost you £119 on Ryanair rather than £462 on BA. The problem is, BA

doesn't fly to Turin. Instead, Ryanair quotes BA's fare to Milan, 80 miles away. It happens that BA's low-cost offshoot, Go, flies to Milan, too, with a no-frills service from Stansted. So why doesn't Ryanair use the more valid comparison? Perhaps because Go charges only £100 return.

The fares chart gets stranger still. "Ancona £129," boasts Ryanair, compared with £562 on BA. But BA's only Adriatic

destinations are Venice and Trieste, hundreds of miles away. The closest cities to Ancona to which BA actually flies are Rome and Bologna, each 125 miles distant. Ryanair chooses Bologna - the BA fare there is higher than to Rome.

Again, no mention of Go's fare of £100 return from Stansted to Rome or Bologna. You're probably getting

the pattern by now: "Biarritz £99", against £534 on BA. No, British Airways doesn't fly to Biarritz. Ryanair contrasts its fare with BA's to Bordeaux, rather than those to Bilbao

nearer and cheaper. Oddest of all is Dinard. Ryanair says BA charges £315, compared with its fare of £99. BA, you will not be amazed to learn, does not fly to the Brittany resort. The airline does, though, offer a connection in Jersey to Air Aurigny services, which will get you to Dinard for a maximum fare of £176 return - 45 per cent less than Ryanair claims.

BA, not averse to the odd "dirty trick" itself, has begun legal action: "A writ has been issued claiming trademark infringement and malicious falsehood."

says the airline. Ryanair's new routes are to be welcomed, since they will extend choice and increase competition. But misleading travellers with unfair comparisons, and using offensive advertising, are not so agreeable.

AT TIRANA airport in Albania, the dark days of Communism were just that: unilluminated. Under the old dictator, Enver Hoxha, the runway lights at the capital's airport were switched off after the last (and, indeed, only) flight on Friday and not switched back on until Olympic Airways' plane turned up

from Athens on Tuesday. You might imagine that Tirana, 1985, has little in common with Gatwick 1999. But Marlene Maguire of Surrey suggests otherwise:

"On boarding CityFlyer flight 675 bound for Menorca, we sat on the Tarmac for two hours, being told there was an electricity failure at the airport and they were unable to pump the fuel.

"We have what is one of the busiest international airports in the world, and it has a power cut. No backup generator? Wonderful."

PRAGUE & BUDAPEST

Convenient flight schedules, the refurbishment of hotels and reasonable tariffs in both Prague and Budapest have made possible the combination of these two beautiful cities on the same itinerary

The city of Prague, built along the banks of the Vitava River and on the surrounding hills, has often been described as the Hundred Spired 7 nights from £595

Golden Praha, the Rome of the North, it was the chief city of the old kingdom of Bohemia and the cultural centre of Europe in the 14th century. enriched by artists and architects from France, Germany, and Italy. Today, Prague still retains its magnificent 18th-century character, the skyline is a fairytale scenario of domes and spires.

No less a city of spires is Budapest, one of the gracious cities through which the Danube meanders on its way to the Black Sea. From austere Cothic, stately Renaissance and hardly-restrained Oriental decoration to the exuberance of the Baroque, the ancient towns of Buda and Pest recall the influence of past invaders.

Both cities endured nearly 40 years of life behind the former Iron Curtain but have emerged relatively unscathed by the dead hand of dictatorial administration to a new flowering.

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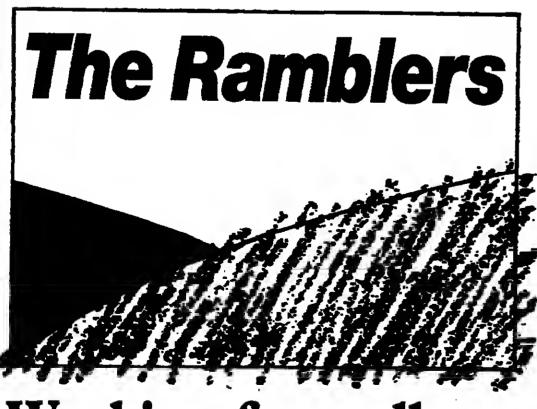
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Bullies and Blockers: Back Off!

The Ramblers' Association is preparing to take legal action against Mr Van Hoogstraten, a Sussex landowner who is illegally blocking a public footpath.

Mr Van Hoogstraten is not above the law. Public paths mean just that - open to the public. The Ramblers defend public paths and if all else fails will take legal action to open them up.



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Pepys into the past

Trails of the unexpected: in the footsteps of the diarist around London. By Guy de la Bédoyère

diary covers only a fraction of his life, just nine years and five months (1660-69). But thanks to other records a great deal is known about the tailor's son who became secretary of the Admiralty and president of the Royal Society, and it's still possible to walk through his world.

Start at Charing Cross station. Turn left (west) out of the main entrance and walk down Whitehall. As a boy Pepys watched Charles I being executed outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall on 30 January 1649. This magnificent building, designed by Inigo Jones, was the only part ever huilt of a planned new Whitehall Palace.

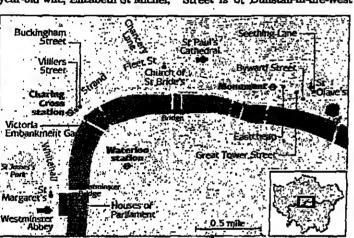
The diary opens in 1660 in Axe Yard, near Downing Street, long buried under the sprawl of Whitehall. The church of St Margaret's, still standing beside Westminster Abbey, is where he married his voluble 15year-old wife, Elizabeth St Michel,

amuel Pepys's famous in 1655; not that the event inhibited Pepys' later flirtations with shopgiris in nearby Westminster Hall.

Pepys went to watch Charles II being crowned in Westminster Abbey on 23 April 1661. Waiting from 4am until 11am for the king to arrive had unforeseen consequences, as, "before the King had done all his ceremonies". Samuel was overcome with "so great a list to pisse" that he had to leave.

Head back to Charing Cross and stroll east along the Strand if you feel up to it. Or, take the District or Circle Line Tube to Monument from Westminster. Walking Pepysians need to pass through where the Temple Bar once stood, near the Law Courts and along Fleet Street. Chancery Lane, just off to the left, was one of Pepys's haunts. He spent the evening of 13 December 1665 there in the Pope's Head tavern with his slightly suspect business associate. Captain George Cocke.

Not much further along Fleet Street is St Dunstan-in-the-West



11 Solution Automot 2 | F AFTER LE MOULEAN - COME ... ITT VE the permitted



Pepys final resting place: St Olave's church in Hart Street was also his favourite spot for ogling London's women

where Pepys heard an "able" sermon on 18 August 1667. Despite its worthy content, Pepys filled out the time by trying his back with a "modits own in 1673. est maid". She had her wits about her-and, apparently, a pack of pins with which she threatened the libid-

what she thought of that) until the sermon finished and he went off to collect his wife. At the bottom of Fleet Street is where young master Pepys was born, on 23 February 1633, 366 years ago, the fifth of 11 children of John

inous clerk. So he held another's

hand (there's no information about

and Margaret Pepys, in Salisbury Court near the church of St Bride's. In June 1660, Pepys had been appointed Clerk of the Acts to the Navy in its Seething Lane office. Head up Eastcheap into Great Tower Street. Just after it becomes Byward Street turn left into Seething Lane, which

was the new Pepys home. Here, in 1666, Pepys had another front seat to history. Still wearing his nightgown, he loaded his possessions on to a cart at 4am on 3 Sept-London raged. This area was spared A small garden marks the site of the Navy Office, which burnt down all on

Olave's, Hart Street, built in about 1450. This was Pepys's "own enemies, though, and he was implichurch", where he ogled women while saying his prayers, and where Elizabeth Pepys is buried. In 1669 Samuel and Elizabeth took

a trip to Europe, partly to restore their marriage after she had found him philandering with her servant Deb. "I was at a wooderful loss," he wrote, after being caught red-handed. Elizabeth became ill while abroad and died sooo after their return, on 10 November 1669. Today, the bust of her, commissioned by Pepys, overlooks the altar and the

chancel vault where she lies. Her personality streams vividly out of the diary. Pepys cheated on her mercilessly, but he loved her. Their failure to have children, probably due to his operation to remove a kidney stone, was a source of permanent sadness. St Olave's is a peaceful place to

ember 1666 while the Great Fire of visit on a weekday lunch time. It is huddled in a corner and towered the conflagration, though later fires over by faceless blocks, while suits toria Embankment Gardens of the his residence. From here, he could

and the Blitz saw to much of the rest. and mobile phones scrittle along the pavements outside.

In 1669, Pepys had nearly 20 ears of work ahead of him. By 1673 Just across Seething Lane is St he was secretary of the Admiralty and MP for Castle Rising. He had cated in a scandal involving the leasing of a naval vessel. He was imprisoned nearby in the Tower of London in 1679. Pepys's loyalty to James II made him a target and suspect Catholic sympathiser when William and Mary arrived in 1688, ending his career. He served two further terms in the Tower, in 1689 and 1690. During some of this time he lived in York Buildings, Buckingham Street, built

in 1675 on the site of old York House. Head back to Charing Cross station (or Embankment Tube station) and just beside it you'll see Villiers Street, which runs between the two stations. The street name honours George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who lived in York House; his conceit was to have successive streets oo the site re-named to commemorate his full title, even

down to Of Alley (now York Place). Walk down Villiers Street to Vic-

left. The park was created when the easily escape for half an hour's Embankment was built in the 19th century, and pushed the Thames back. All the way along, watergates once led down to the river, where crowds of boatmen waited for fares the stink.

up, down and across the river. York Watergate, built in 1626, was where Pepys's esteemed friends such as John Evelyn, the other great 17th-century diarist. and Dr Thomas Gale, master of St Paul's School, arrived. They were on their way to partake in one of Mr professional business. Pepys's musical evenings or "philosophical suppers".

The pair were interested in everything and anything, and if they weren't at Pepys's listening to a celebrated emuch sing, they were at the Royal Society watching various lunatic demonstrations. One occasion, on 14 November 1666, involved connecting the blood system of one dog to that of another. The first dog died and the second survived, reported Pepys, and was "likely to do well" (fortunately, it did).

and a blue plaque commemorates

print-huying in Covent Garden across the Strand. Look through the Watergate and imagine the river, the

Pepys dwindled into his twilight years, with his companion Mary Skinner, moving to the home of his former clerk, Will Hewer, in Clapham. Here, he and Evelyn exchanged letters discussing remedies for incontinence instead of

boats, the hustle and, unavoidably,

And here, also, Pepys, "universaly beloved... a very greate Cherisher of Learned men" (as Evelyn recalled) died at 3.45am on 26 May 1703. A few days later he was buried in St Olave's in the heart of the city he loved. He lies there still.

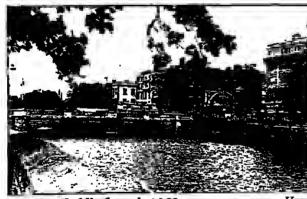
Guy de la Bédoyère is editor of Particular Friends: The Correspondence of Samuel Pepus and John Evelyn' (Boydell 1998), and has also produced an edition of The Diary of John Evelyn' (Boydell Pepys lived at both 12 and 14 1995). Pepys's Diary', edited by Buckingham Street at various times, Robert Latham and William Matthews, is published in paper-

SOMETHING TO DECLARE

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

Bargain of the week Glasgow by rail for £15 return. Scotland's largest city is the place to be this winter. Yesterday Frank Lloyd Wright and the Living City, the first big exhibition of the City of Architecture and Design 1999, opened at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery (0141-287 2700, 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday, 11am-5pm Sunday, free). And last weekend the relics of St Valentine were enshrined in their oew resting place in Greyfriars Centre at 270 Ballater Street, on the Commercial Road in the Gorbals (0141-429 0740; the "hold music" for this line, incidentally, is 'Love Me Tender'). If you shop at the right su-

permarket, you can travel from many UK stations - including Birmingham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Bristol, Liverpool, London Euston and Manchester - to Scotland's largest city for just £15 return. Holders of the Tesco Clubcard (free from any Tesco store) can go to Glasgow or to anywhere on Virgin's network on the West Coast main line or Cross Country services for this flat fare, until 21 March. Call 0845 305 0100 at least three working days before you wish to travel.



You can travel from London (or many other places in England) to Dublin for less than the price of the airport tox. In real terms, this must be the lowest fare ever from London

to a European capital city. Eurolines (0990 143 219) has cut its one-way fare by bus and boat to £9.99 - less than the air passenger duty on a flight to Dublin. You must book a fortnight in advance and complete travel by 28 March. The return fare is £19.50.

Travel to Dublin for only t. 99

A !!kely story
A ferry up the Mersey? This sammer, you won't have to simply racke do with shuttling across be ween Liverpool and the Wirral. On seven Saturdays from

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sel goes as far as Salforu (. Tays,

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Return transport by road to 1. -

erpool is provided if required.

passengers. The price is £22.

The vessel returns the fol-

To reach anywhere else in the Republic, the flat fare is £13.99 one way/£26.50 return.

Trouble spots Latest trapel advice for Turkey from the Foreign Office (0171-238 4503)

Most visitors enjoy troublefree visits to Turkey. However, take sensible precautions and be aware of the dangers of visiting certain areas of Turkey.

There continues to be widespread terrorist activity in parts of south-east Turkey including the kidnapping of western tourists. Travel to this area should be avoided. There have also been terrorist attacks incoastal resorts, the Black Sea provinces and inland towns. The authorities give a high priority to protecting visitors but

security cannot be guaranteed. "British citizens visiting Turkey are advised to only stay at hotels and guest houses that have been approved by the Ministry of Tourism. Ministry approved hotels and guest houses are available from £12

up per night. "Street robbery is on the increase in the major Istanbul tourist areas. Be wary of approaches by strangers. There eve been instances of tourists being offered drink and food lowing day with a fresh set of which is drugged."

SIMON CALDER

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here are a few hotel locations in the world that can beat the Mena House at Ciza with its dramatic views of the Pyramids and nearby Great Sphints. The Mena House has played host to many of the most important personages of the last century including members of the royal families of Europe, politicians such as Churchill, stars from Hollwood, besides being the headquarters for Affied Chief of Command during the last war. The hotel accommodation is laid out in a circle and in the middle are beautiful grounds with a swimming pool and paim trees, where you can be sitting and believing for all the world that you are in an oasis and that you have the Pyramids all to yourself.

This is a unique opportunity, at a tariff which is at a fraction of the normal, to see one of the wonders of the world and in some comfor. Travel is provided by British Airways scheduled non-stop flights to Cairo, with 4-nights accommodation at the Mena House Holel on a room and breakfast basis. Visits are made to the Pyramids. Sphinx and the treasures of Tutanishamous at the Francisco Museum with an Tulankhamun at the Egyptian Museum, with an optional visit to Alexandria. There is also an optional visit to Alexandria. There is also an opportunity to see the fontastic speciacle of a sound and light performance set against the Great Sphiros.

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Where the world awoke

Conquered by many and adored by all, Syria's mighty beauty reflects its war-torn past. By Adrian Hamilton

precise spot where Alexander crossed the Tigris before sweeping down to the final defeat of the Persian emperor Darius. The river has changed course too often to know. But Ain Divar, at the northern tip of Syria, was right on the Turkish border, at an ancient crossing site with the single arch of a longdestroyed bridge.

Alexander broke the flow of the river by standing his cavalry in lines in the water while his infantry waded through with their weapons and baggage held high. We didn't try to get across. The Tigris at this point forms the border with a Turkey bristling with more gun emplacements than the Maginot Line and an army that tends to take pot-shots at anyone straying across the river. Only the intervention of our bost of the previous evening, the Armenian bishop of Qamishli, and a call between generals on the two sides, ensured that we could go down from the teahouse that looks over the river and examine the arch to the bemusement of the Kurdish girls working the bank.

His Grace was no ordinary bishop, I should add: a worldly prelate in his purple-lined robes, and a passionate one. Speeding about in the largest Mercedes ("a gift from the President"), he has bent himself both to community centres and the erection of monuments to the Armenian massacres of 1915-22 (his father had been sold into an Arab family were wiped out).

Recommended to us as a power in the land and a gourmet to boot, he tre in Qamishli, a dinner the like of which I have barely experienced. The tradition of Armenian cooking (and it is a great tradition) is alive and well and can be tasted in Qamishli.

It's not the only thing alive and well in Syria. For bad reasons as much as good, 30 years of Alouite rule has preserved a stability of minorities that has quite simply been wiped out by war and the tyranny of majorides elsewhere in the Levant. Relative isolation has also preserved from development and destruction an

amazing array of monuments. The Tigris itself sweeps on into Iraq soon after entering Syria, the "King's Way" of Darius and Xerxes now taking caravans of articulated Turkish trucks to Baghdad with



food and supplies and returning - it is said - with half the antiquities of Baghdad. But the Euphrates cootinues south-east through northeastern Syria, with the area known as al-gezira, "the land between rivers", to the right and the Syrian desert on its left. Here is truly the cradle of civilisation, even more than the Mesopotamia of Iraq, where wild wheat and barley grew and inspired the first domestication of plant and animal.

Thirty miles to the south of Qamishli is Tell Brak, where Max Mallowan dug while his wife, Agatha Christie, wrote. The Americans are there now, and if there is not much to see of their digging, the sheer size of the place and its walls and gates gives reality to what was once the centre of one of the world's earliest

There are literally bundreds of "tells", or mounds, dotting the plains along the Euphrates and, across the deserts towards Homs and Hama, Learly all of them are signals of ancient towns. The great majority are still to be excavated. The itch to see what's in them, the sense of a 5,000-year past that has still to reovernight in his convent (fresh buf- veal so much, is overwhelming. falo butter" with apricot jam for hreakfast) and ate, at his youth cenpersonal life (you can read them with translations in the museums at Deir ez-Zor and Damascus, with their talk of health advice, the makings of a good dancer and the apologies of a governor accused of sending secondrate mushrooms to his king).

At Ebla, borne of the most productive of all ancient archives, you can still see the temple and the library. Down south, near the Iraqi border, you can visit Mari, vast in extent, and with its massive halls protected in part by a modern roof (you need a good map to sort out where you are and at what age). With the damming of the Euphrates and the creation of Lake Assad, a good deal of rescue archaeology has been done, its fruits on display not just in Aleppo



Known as Queen of the desert, Palmyra is probably the finest desert ruin in the whole of the Middle East

and Damascus, but also at the local museum at Deir ez-Zor, where the Germans have financed a first-class display of artefact and explanation.

Deir ez-Zor, on the left bank, is the location for the best hotels (because of the oil and gas fields nearby), and a jolly market with several charming cafés and kebab restaurants along the banks of the river It makes a good half-way point for a visit. For the Euphrates is best taken as an arc, starting with Aleppo and its great bazaar and striking out across the desert from the city to catch it at the Arab castle of Qala'at Najm, turning down the river to Mari and then across the desert to Palmyra, Queen of the Desert and the finest desert ruin in the whole

Most people go to Syria for its castles and Graeco-Roman cities of the it is the desert of the Bible, stony with west. But it is the east which explains the country - the frontier where the Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Persian and Arab empires clashed and compromised over the land trade from China to the Mediterranean. The Seleucids, successors of Alexander, huilt the great fortress town of Dura Europos; you can do a quick tour ou a motorbike driven by a very large Syrian with an even larger rifle

strapped to his back. The Byzantines built Halabiyyeh and Rasafeh, with two basilicas and underground storage caverns bigger than a cathedral. The Arabs have the magical forts of Qala'at ar-Rahba and Qala'at Ja'abar, a marvel of brick courses on a spit of land now surrounded by lake.

It is called the Syrian desert, but scrub and full of donkeys. The nomads still move from winter to summer pasture, with flocks of redbrown goats mixed with sheep. In the villages of the north, the houses are beehive shapes of mud, bright red against the sun, the same flash of intense colour that brightens the

local dress. Syria, sui under-expioned as a tourist destination but increasingly open to visitors, is not a land of romance. It is a country of the frontiers of history, between desert and pasture, mountain and plain, between East and West, settlement and nomad. Nowhere else can you feel so completely the beginnings and the

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Getting there Between them, Syrian Arab Airways (0171-493 2851) and British Mediterranean Airways (through BA, 0345 222111) fly from Heathrow to Damascus seven times a week. Adrian Hamilton used Air Miles to book a return flight from London to Damascus on British Mediterranean Airways. A World Offer return fare of £349

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TRAVEL

now and 19 March; it must

Visitors need a visa, which can be obtained in advance from the Syrian Embassy, 8 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PH (0891 600171). Visas are refused to travellers whose passports show evidence of a visit to Israel.

TO ALL EUROPE

More information There is no Syrian tourist office in the UK. But if you send a stamped, addressed envelope to the Syrian Embassy (see above), you will receive a selection of brochures.

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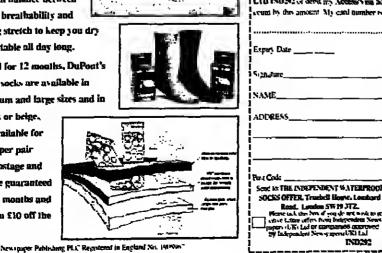
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THE SHOPPING FORECAST

FANS OF Monet's paintings need not queue to see his floral landscapes at the Royal Academy but can simply pick up a phone and book themselves an autumn break in Spain to see the celaminas.

These are the "saffron gardens" where thousands of Sativus linnaeus, or purplecoloured crocuses, bloom. Their dried red-coloured stigmas are harvested each autumn to produce saffron, probably the most expensive and precious spice you can buy, and used to stain and scent all manner of products, from cloth to cuisine, in brilliant shades of gold.

Native to the eastern Mediterranean, the Balkans and the Middle East, saffron is now produced in many parts of the world, including the single producer in Wales that supplies Fortnum & Mason. The major share of the market, though, is served by the violet-hued crocus fields of Castilla La Mancha in Spain, an area which produces up to 40 tonnes a year from individual

family plots. Saffron production bere extends right from Albacete in the

east to Toledo in the west and from Cuenca in the north to the wine-lover's favourite, Valdepeñas, in the south. Castilla La Mancha is undervalued by many Spanish guide books (the Lonely Planet guide to Spain describes the region as having "some of Spain's least attractive country") yet there is plenty for spice-lovers and holiday-makers to keep them entertained, even when the surrounding

fields are not in bloom. One charming place to stay at in La Mancha is the town of Almagro, home to one of the most enchanting paradors in Spain (a converted monastery) and, in the Flemish-influenced Plaza Mayor, home to the Corrai de Comedias, a 17th-century wooden theatre. If you visit the town during July you can catch a performance, as this is when the theatre stages the Festival Internacional de Teatro Clasico, but, if you're more interested in

saffron, wait until the last weekend in October and carry on a little further north, to Consnegra.

A higgledy-piggledy village, with a castle to call its own and a Don Quixotearound it, the village

is the site of the annual Fiests de la Rosa del Azafran, when the local saffron season is celebrated in quintessential Spanisb style - loud guitars stamping feet, castanets, lots of lace and, of course, hundreds of crocuses. The truly dedicated can stay oo and satiate their passion for saffron with a steaming plateful of paella before retiring for the evening. A loose Spanish equivalent of bangers and mash, paella is a combination of two Moorish legacies - rice and, appropri-

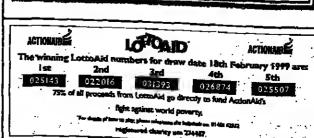
ately, saffron. If you're just mad about saffron and can't wait until October, though, stay at home in Saffron Walden, the exotically named Essex town where saffron was first cultivated in Britain back in the 14th century. Pick up your copy of the Divertimenti catalogue (0181-246 4300 for mail order).

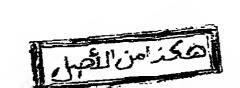
A 4g pack of Safinter Spanish saffron costs £7.95, about twice the price you would pay in La Mancha

A cheap flight to Madrid and the hus to Almagro will set you back around £120, meaning that you could start showing a modest profit if you came back esque ring of re-stored windmills precious stiemas

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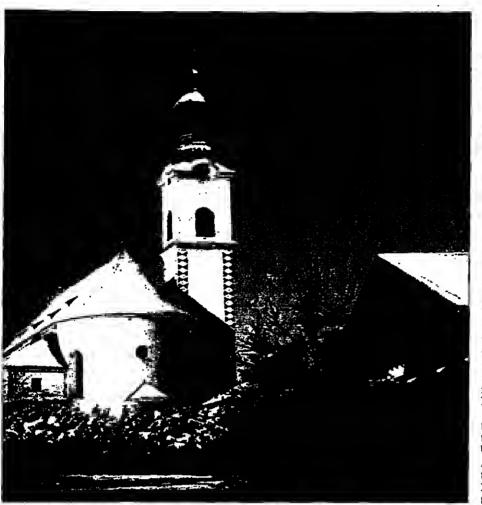
Time to confess: sometimes skiing up and down a single mountain can be a bit of a bore. That's why large linked areas are so appealing. By Stephen Wood

here are times when skiing can seem a curiously pointiess activity. Sisyphus wouldn't have understood it; the mythical king of Corinth, condemned for his misdeeds endlessly to push a stone up a hill (as you'll remember, it always slipped from his grasp at the top and rolled back down again), would probably be intrigued by what skiers had done to deserve their similar fate. On a morning with bright sunshine, beautiful soft snow and fine views, the question doesn't. arise; but on other occasions you sometimes wonder, after a few runs, just what's so great about going up and down a

At those times, the answer is to ski to a different mountain - to get off the treadmill and really go somewhere. Hence my pleasure at being in the Portes du Soleil area soon after Christmas; disaffected with Avoriaz, I could just ski down the hill. cross the road in Morzine to get oo to its slopes, and then drop into the next resort. Les Gets. In the other direction, across the Chavanette ridge, I could have skied into Switzerland.

I am not alone, of course, in being attracted to large, linked ski areas encompassing several mountains; size isn't everything but, for most skiers, the bigger the ski area, the better Proof comes this season from Schladming in Austria.

In last season's edition of the Good Skiing Guide, its report on Schladming warned that the resort's surrounding ski slopes "sound pretty impressive until you appreciate that the skiing takes place in 18 areas on halfa-dozen mountains... only two linked by lift". But this season, new lift connections on either side of the resort mean that the Planai and Hochwurzen peaks are oow linked with two others



Good connections give you access to new slopes and new sights Skishoot Offshoot

the Reiterahm and Hauser Kibling giving access to a total of trian, making it one of the 115km of skiing on 51 pistes, and 50 lifts. The effect of opening these new links was immediate; in the first few weeks of the season, the area's lift-pass revenue increased by more than a third, and sales of accommodation were up by 10 per cent.

Local knowledge is one reason why skiers were so quick to respond to the greater convenience of the four linked mountains on the south side of the in the Dachstein-Tauern area, Enns valley. Almost half of

Schladming's visitors are Auscountry's most popular resorts among its nationals. Britons lag far behind, providing just 5 per cent of the resort's business: among the big operators, only Crystal and Neilson go there. That will surely change; create a big ski area and the British will come, particularly to a resort that is only an hour's drive

Although there are blue runs on the Planai and a handful of and for intermediates there is blacks - including the steep run an enjoyable day's worth of Tourist Office: 0171-629 0461

from Salzburg airport.

down to the cable-car base used for Schladming's annual World Cup downhill race - the skiing in the Dachstein-Tauern is predominantly suited to intermediates. There are 17 red runs in the Planai/Hochwurzen area alone, most of them fast, sweeping pistes that drop through the trees; only on the upper slopes, at about 1,850m. are the ski areas wide open. The linked mountains stretch for about 15km along the valley.

good red runs just to get from ooe end to the other - a day's slaing, that is, because even on a busy weekend in January the lift queues were short.

Despite the relatively low altitude of the resort - and the fact that I was there in early January, before this season's major snowfalls - the conditions were remarkable, too. Partly this is because the Dachstein-Tauern is well-armed with snow cannons, partly because the slopes' north-facing aspect keeps the surface consistent. But the area also has a well-earned reputation for piste-grooming.

The resort's rarer pleasures include the old chairlift which, down at valley level, connects the Planai and Hochwurzen mountains. I can't remember ever going through a tunnel on a chairlift before, and certainly oot one with a Flintstones theme. At the tunnel's entrance Fred Flintstone offers a cheery Yabba dabba doo" (rough translation: herelich willsommen); inside, amusing tableaux from Flintstone family life are hung from the cave-like walls.

In the village, the illustrations hanging from the walls of the back room in Charly Kahr's bar also have a single theme; Arnold Schwarzenegger, photographed on a film set, with his Humvee off-road vehicle, on skis, etc.

Herr Kahr runs a ski school in Schladming; and among his past trainees are the British women's skiing team - and Schwarzenegger, born locally, who is a regular visitor to the resort and a good friend of Kahr's. I asked whether the actor was a good skier: "Yes," said Kahr, but without a great deal of conviction. Oddly encouraging that, isn't it?

A ski-pass for the Dachstein-Tauern orea costs ASch 375 (£20) per day, ASch 1,795 (£94) for six days. Austrian National

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RESORT REPORT: ZELL AM SEE, AUSTRIA

ZELL "ON THE WATER" is a chocolate-box version of a lakeside village, as appealing under a thick covering of snow as it is in summer, when the flowers are out and the steamers chug back and forth across the lake. Traffic, which once raced through the centre, has been diverted through a tunnel, restoring some of the original medieval calm.

There are several ways to get to the slopes - some, as it turned out, quicker than others. The route I chose was by the Zeller Berghahn from the centre of the village. This was a mistake on two fronts. Although the queues in many resorts are worse on Sundays. a half-hour wait seemed excessive. And more careful study of the piste map would have revealed that this particular gendola doesn't ge all

the way: from the Mittelsta-From here, even a rela-

tion, where its passengers are emptied out, the journey to the top still involves a couple of chair lifts and a drag lift. A quicker route is to take the shuttle bus from outside

the Bergbahn station to the ski school; from there the Schmittenhohebahn cable car goes straight up the mountain. Not only do the queues tend to be shorter, but it deposits you as high as you can go. 2,000 metres above the lake.

tively inexperienced skier can ski right down to the village In Zell, as in much of Austria. the skiing is best suited to intermediates. To extend the network of red and blue runs. Zell is linked with Kaprun, the next village up the valley, by bus; the same lift ticket can be used in both resorts.

Two hours from Munich - to which I flew for £80 return - Zell is well-placed for a late break. CATHY PACKE

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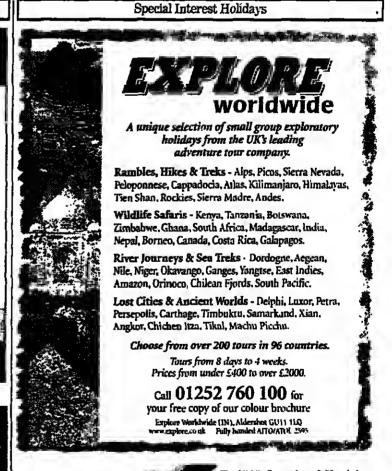








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The city where the barber still sings

When you stroll in the alleyways of Seville, don't be surprised if you bump into Figaro on the way to his wedding. By Alex Ninian

been there." I asked the taxi driver in Seville. He said, "it is into a one-way system, cars conso that you can walk like the locals. some way away and this is a town-tentedly wend their way through. only taxi, so I never go there". Another thought Aguas Frescas with miniature marble fountains. thought it was a substitute for fictitious Donna Elvira, where nowa- and spicy albondigas. The more Perrier water. In fact, the castle and days people gather to play guitars. heroic can try sopa de pecadillo imaginary setting for his play. The Barber of Seville.

Seville is like that. It exists as much in fiction as it does in fact. Here in the Santa Cruz district, Don Juan lurked in the shadows of its narrow streets. Here, the marriage of Figaro took place and the Gypsy Carmen, from just across the river, loved the bullfighter and seduced the soldier, and no one is quite sure how much these romantic scenes have a connection with reality, or how much they are pure myth and illusion.

The Santa Cruz quarter is the heart of the old town. The white-

spoke to a Spanish friend in walled houses and shops have in hlue and white tiles. Yet, arranged

Old trees shade cobbled squares was a cocktail bar, and a waiter One is a real square named after the the town have never existed. They To us, Seville is mysterious and exouc, yet irrepteningly fam triggers a thousand images of halfremembered posters, stage scenery, advertisements, operas, movies.

Manuel sat at my table at breakfast. He was visiting from the north and was as captivated by the place as I was. I said: "To me it is a town of myth and legend, a kind of Spanish Brigadoon," He said, in perfect English: "I think the marvel is the way the old place takes modern things and massages and merges them into its own shape." It's true; bar-coded goods in air-condi-tiooed shops are bought without any culture shock by widows dressed in black, carrying silk fans.

It is hig enough to have a life of England about the castle or balconies smothered with bougain its own without visitors, but if they town of Aguas Frescas, just villaea and hibiscus in narrow do come, it absorbs them into its outside Seville. He said, "I alleyways. The short, jumbled ways. It prints maps that tell you ways. It prints maps that tell you streets have their names picked out which streets are shady in the morning and which in the afternoon, A host of places will ensure that you enjoy dozens of sherries and wines (from vineyards that have been there since the Romans), gozpacho (ham and egg soup) or cazuela de

> As we walked up to the El Arenal district, a few yards west of Santa Cruz, the ring road skirted the hullring, as if the road had been designed to take the aficionados to the hullfight. And the statoe of the fictional Carmen stood across the road, looking through the main gate and into the arena. In the nearby prison, the imaginary Fidelio is said to have languished, and the real Cervantes wrote the unreal Don Quixote.

A few hundred yards across the Guadalquivir river is the barrio (or district) of Triana. Once, thousands of Gypsies lived in its claustrophobic maze. Its still-narrow streets Hadrian, who was born here,



retain some of the old coralles or courtyards, bright yellow and orange walls surrounding tiled paving crowded with potted flowers. Manuel pointed out that it is now a normally functioning commercial part of town. I found it easy to imagine the close-packed warren 150 years ago as a no-go area for the authorities, where a deserter like Don José could disappear.

Back across the river and a little north, the Alcazar and the cathedral tell an older story of the town's fabulous past, from the emperor

through half a millennium of with gilt framing, and it lay open at words Fobrico de Tubocos chiselled Moorish rule to the Catholic present. the page which declared it to be the into the stone at the main entrance

conquered the area 700 years ago, they thoughtfully left standing the minaret from which the Muslim faithful had previously been called Guinness Book of Records. to prayer. The result is a deeply Catholic city dominated by a Muslim minaret (the Giralda). Seville uses the afternoon to

modern tendencies: everything closes. After 1pm, nothing happens, is a time of heat and quiet. "Until when?" you ask. "Until after four." "How much after four?" A shrug. "Until some time after four."

"You have to see the cathedral," insisted Mañuel when I emerged from my siesta. "It's the biggest in the world." "Really? What about St Peter's, in Rome?" "No, they can prove it, you'll see," he persevered.

It certainly had an extravagance of private chapels. Each one - and I counted roughly 56 - was a spectacle of marble, gold and silver, but among the statues of the Virgin Mary there was The Guinness Book of Records. It was in a display cabinet Calle San Fernando, we see the

When the Christians re- higgest cathedral in the world. Perhaps there should be another entry claiming it to be the only cathedral in the world to display The

Alcazar, which has been the fortress and palace of the rulers of Seville since Roman times. It is of a size able impose its own style on any possible to house the 800 wives of an early Moorish sultan, who decorated the balconies with flowers planted in the The Spanish king, Pedro the Cruel, continued its hizarre history by rebuilding it, and murdering a guest to steal his ruby, which he gave as a present to the Black Prince of England. The stone has now been shown not to be a ruhy at all hut a spinel, a lesser gem, but it remains

> Many and diverse are the visits you can make outside town. Spain now has a "TGV" from Seville to Madrid, and you can use it to get to Cordoba in 43 minutes. Granada and its Alhambra are also within reach. Back in Seville, walking along

in the British crown.

of a vast, low building, ornate with carved stone. It was once the largest building in Spain and was the tobacco factory where the fabled Carmen worked along with 10,000 Next to the cathedral stands the other cigarreras. It is now the university, and again the new order has taken over smoothly from the old.

Students stroll where once Gypsies worked "with daggers in their garters and carnations in their hair". - Aguas Frescas? Don they ever really exist in Seville? I don't think it really matters, and the Sevillanos don't really care.

Alex Ninian paid £750 for a tailormade package from Mundi Color, booked through Travelmania, 125 Holloway Road, London N7 SLT (0171-700 4844). It included flights from Heathrow to Seville and from Malaga, 10 days' car rental, and stays at the five-star Hotel Tryp Colon in Seville and the four-star Parador del Nerja. For more information, contact the Spanish Tourist Office, 22 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AP (0171-486 8077)

GLOB

Andalucia without advice: a tale of two travel writers

A remote cottage with a swimming pool, high up in the hills of Andalucia, sounded an ideal escape from the word processor. Then reality set in. By Emily Hatchwell

living: I edit guidebooks. You might have thought that, between us, we could arrange a trouble-free self-catering holiday in southern Spain. If only. We arrived at Gatwick far too late to find the off-site car park we'd booked and ended up paying a fortune in the on-site NCP car park.

At Malaga airport, we couldn't locate the car-hire office. Nor the tour operator rep for directions to our cottage. Had I forgotten to tell the company what flight we were on? Tears and recriminations followed. Eventually, both car hire office and rep materialised. We drove into the night and the mountains behind the Costa del Sol.

Our destination was Finca Paquita, a small complex of cottages that shared a swimming pool below the remote hilltop pueblo blanco (white town) of Zahara de la Sierra. This had seemed an ideal rural retreat. It sounded basic, but was cheap and, in the words of the brochure. The of grounds with a private pool It took only sounds audible in the pure mountain air are the gushing waters our free upgrade. of the stream and the bird chatter in apple trees". It was the early hours villa surpassed our expectations.

FRED WRITES travel articles for a of the morning when, after driving down several dirt tracks in pitch darkness, we arrived at the finca. In the darkness, we couldn't make

out much of our immediate surroundings. In the morning, we raised the kitchen blind excitedly to reveal piles of sand and rubble, a cement mixer and workmen building a path just feet from the cottage's terrace. The pool was empty, and instead of the "lovely recliners" we'd been promised, it was surrounded by knee-high grass and weeds.

The situation was a red rag to Fred, who likes to think his middle names are Consumer Champion. He phoned the company and asked if it would be possible to move. That evening, we received a visit from Penny, the rep. She was fairly apologetic about the work (apparently, it had been been delayed by rain). And yes, they did have a free property we could move to - nothing less than a three-bedroom villa in seven acres us about 10 seconds to decide to take

Once we'd found La Huerta, the

Though only a few miles inland from the Costa del Sol, it looked up towards the whitewashed cubes of the pueblo blanco of Casares. The meadows above it were yellow and pink carpets: I counted 20 types of wild flower in a single square yard.

The owners, Brian and Barbara, lived (in considerably less comfort) at the bottom of the garden. We didn't see much of them, but made friends with their menagerie of animals which included Ruth the donkey, whose whinnying served as our early morning call. Everything was hlissful - except the weather. We hadn't bothered to read the "When to go" sections in our guidebooks. In our early May week, sometimes the to walk to it and ask the porter to skies were overcast; the rest of the time it hucketed down.

We were soon forced into sightseeing. We covered hundreds of miles of wiggily mountain roads, dodging thunder and lightning one day, in search of the perfect pueblo bianco. Fred began to fill notebooks, and we passed the time competing for the best similes and metaphors Evenings were too chilly to stay at home, but we found it surprisingly

difficult to find appealing places to eat in and around Casares. Our only success was an hour's drive up in the mountains, a romantic restaurant in the hamlet of Benalauria, where we dined well on local produce. Since the weather was lousy and we pined for more good food, we decided to forgo our last night at La Huerta and head up to Seville.

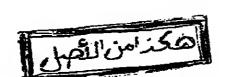
Of course, hours before we left, the skies cleared and our pool ac-tually looked inviting. It was in fact freezing, but we enjoyed drying off in the sun. Our arrival in Seville was embarrassing. Having circled the car-free alleys of the old quarter vainly trying to reach our hotel, I had come and park the car for us.

The city was heaven - a gastronomic idyll after our culinary wilderness. We spent our last two days testing its reputation as world capital of the tapas bar, discussing future holiday options over glasses of fino. A backpacking trip visiting one of my brothers in Madagascar had been long on the agenda but, by now, housesitting for another brother in



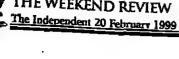
Sheffield seemed more appropriate. The white houses of Casares unfurl around a hilly outcrop

James Davis Travel Photography



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You need a break - and a shortcut to the soul of a great city. The Fasnacht, Basel's annual carnival, begins on Monday but, as Margaret Campbell discovers, the city is also the perfect destination for a winter weekend

Why go now?

Because the . Basel's lively annual carnival, begins at 4am on Monday with a masked lantem-lit procession through the city: while the weather might not match Rio's, it's still worth seeing. The two main parades are on Monday and Wednesday afternoon: the local community has been in party mood for weeks, decorating floats and preparing costumes. Even If you're not here for carnival-time, you can enjoy a roomful of Monet canvases at the Kunstmuseum (without braving the Royal cacemy's crowds). And there's plenty more to explore in this city of museums, statues and fountains which has Europe's best free city-

Dickens and Napoleon both stayed at the Drei Könige hotel

A leaflet outlining five walking tours

is available from the tourist office,

satisfying: start at the Spalentor, a

city walls, cross Petersplatz 6

(stopping to examine the small

Saturday-morning flea market).

courtyard of the red sandstone

before continuing down Spalenberg

to Marktplatz, Spend a few minutes

examining the façade and frescoed

Rathaus (Town Hall), before heading

for the Mittlere Bridge and crossing

the Rhine. Once on the other side.

passenger ferry that will take you

across to Munsterplatz for SFr1'20

(50o). From there, It's an easy walk

downhill, back to the town centre.

you come to the "Leu", a small

turn right and follow the river undi

13th-century remnant of the former

but the DIY approach is just as

Take a hike



Check in

As in the rest of Switzerland,

accommodadon doesn't come cheap.

I was directed by the tourist office to

a hotel at the "cheaper" end of the

price scale, and paid 5fr170 (£70)

for a double room in the excellent

two-star Hotel Rochat, (9 (Petersgraberi 23, 00 41 61 261 81

40) which would probably be classed

as a three-star elsewhere in Europe.

Should you decide to indulge, stay at

the Dref Könige @ (Blumenrain 8.

00 41 61 261 S2 52), which once

welcomed Dickens and Nameleon.

Prices start at Sfr275 (£115) for a

http://www.baseltourismus.ch

single room. The city's web page on

Window shopping

Freie Strasse, @ Basel's main

by the time you reach there, the

boutiques selling hats, music and

steep streets leading back up

The Icing on the cake

If you like a zoo, (3) don't miss

Basel's (Binningerstrasse 41, tram

8). Entry is 5fr12, and is worth it

just for the aquariums: tank after

tank of amazingly coloured fish.

the Historical museum (3). The

medieval goldwork, a collection of

century tapestries, and this 5unday

is the last day of a major exhibition

recognised the 5wiss Confederation

(and ended the Thirty Years War).

marking the 350th anniversary of

the treaty of Westphalia, which

Entry costs 5fr5.

permanent collection includes

musical Instruments and 15th-

Or head back to Barfusserolatz and

turtles and other sea-life.

Andreasplatz are fined with

ethnic goods.

shopping street, begins at the other

end of St Alban-Graben from the art

gallery and runs down to Marktplatz.

If you still have any energy (or cash)

Lunch on the run Drop into Cafe Florian @ (00 41 61 261 57S4), at Totentanz 1 for a reasonably priced break from the crowds; choose from the menu or their delicious ready-made snacks and open sandwiches, displayed temptingly close to the cake stand. For a riverside view sit in the room at the back

Get your bearings Basel fords the Rhine at the point where France, Germany and Switzerland share borders, Semled since at least the first century BC, it is now an important commercial centre with a vibrant theatre and lively university. The Old Town and most tourist sights are on the south bank of the river, as is the main tourist office @ at Schlifflande 5 (00 41 61 268 68 68). There's also a small tourist office in the SBB rail station ((which serves Swiss and French destinations, and is not to be confused with the Badischer Bahnhof terminus, serving Germany).

An aperitif

The Brasserie Basel-

Stab, @ opposite the

Rathaus, houses both a

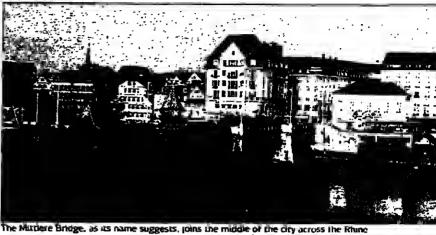
café. Cocktails on offer

include a Blue Angel (at

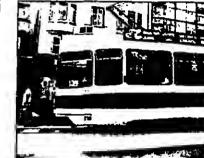
Sfr12), a bilious mix of

Curacao and Champagne.

bar and a more traditional



Take a ride The most remarkable deal for visitors to Basel is that, once booked into a hotel, you're entitled to a free mobility ticket, giving free access to Basel's public transport network for the duration of your stay and a bus ride back to the airport. For a view o both sides of the Rhine, take tram 8 from the railway starion north to the Messeplatz 6. If you don't qualify for the mobility ticket, a single fare costs 5fr2.50 (just over a pound). Tickets can be bought from machines beside the stops.



The best way to see the city is by tram

A walk in the park

take tram 31 to the small but

Cross the Rhine to Claraplatz, then

stroll along Solitude Promenade.

before rejoining the human and

mechanical world in the Tinguely

discretion, good coffee upstairs).

Sunday morning: go to

The Münster's 🕑 spire is visible

from much of the city. However, it's

only close up that you appreciate the

church

Museum (museum entry fee at your

Bracing brunch Cross Münsterplatz to Café zum Isaak (B (look for Isaak's statue above the door). The menu is on a blackboard behind the bar. As well as good choice of breakfast and light lunches, this café specialises in a wide selection of teas; ask to see the

Cultural afternoon Allow plenty of time for the Kunstmuseum (3) at 16 St Alban-Graben: Its two floors house Switzerland's largest art collection. ranging from Renaissance painters to pop art by Lichtenstein. It contains room after room of visual Holbein, several Picassos and a good showing of Impressionists, Entry costs 5fr7, but the sculptures in the courtyard (including Rodin's poignant 'Burghers of Calais') can be viewed free of charge.

diamond-shaped green and yellow mosaic on the roof, the hideous beasts carved on its walls, and the elaborate doorway. A monument to Basel's turbulent religious history, the church also houses the tomb of Erasmus of Rotterdam, the humanist thinker and early European. Sunday service starts at 10am, and the cathedral can be visited by nonworshippers in the afternoon (admission: Sfr5). Before leaving, walk through the clolsters or round

to the back of the church for a



Beam down

Fly in to Europe's newest airport,

panoramic view of the city. The Münster spire is visible from much of the city

GLOBAL AGENDA

Demure dinner

of restaurants, including the

The streets behind Markiplatz are full

vegetarian Zum Roben Engel (1) in

Andreasplatz (00 41 61 261 2008).

Head back up towards the university

area and try the Restauration zur

Harmonie @ (Petersgraben 71, 00

44 61 261 07 18); tasty food (if a

trifle heavy), friendly staff, and a

why it's popular with locals. Main

cream sauce (Geschnetzeltes) or

(Riesencrevetten) cost around

relaxed atmosphere. It's easy to see

courses such as veal in mushroom and

frams, rooked in buttler and partic

If you've been paying attention, you will know that since the start of the year the capital has already hosted three big travel exhibitions. Destinations '99, though, has grown into the biggest, with more than 500 exhibitors happy to advise you on the best way to San José and how to avoid getting stuck up the Yangtse without a paddle. Ten geographically themed

You can't miss the red sandstone façade of the Rathaus

worlds" aim to give you a taste of holidays in various locations or with a specific theme, such as African World or World of Cruising. All the usual travel suspects, from Judith Chalmers to Jennifer

Cox, will be there, with a series of talks and presentations. The higgest attraction in the first two days (the show opened on Thursday) proved to be the gallery that was showing all the finallists in the Wanderlust/Independent/Canon Travel Photograph of the Year competition (see page 19).

At 12 noon and 3pm today, the cable and satellite station Travel Channel will be staging a road show, with Frank Bough and Cheryl Baker (ex-Buck's Fizz) to help you in making your mind up. Wish you were here? You will do. Destinations '99 takes place at Earl's Court, London SW5. today and tomorrow from 10am to 5.30pm, admission £5.



Having successfully glamorised voyeurism and bondage, Helmut Newton (above) tones it down a little in this wonderfully erudite portrait of Italy's capital. The exhibition documents Newton's "72 hours in Rome" through a photographic diary that records all the city's buildings, from the tiny to the titanic. Newton's unique visual slant captures the city's architecture as it really is - a mixture of peace and chaos, contemporary glamour and ancient tradition, boldness and himility - and a dash of sexual mystique, naturally. But hurry:

you have to find a flight to Rome by tomorrow. Galleria Communale d'Arte Modernae Contemporanea, Via Francesco Crispi 24 (0039 06 474 2843). Until 21 February

Get away from the Monet madness currently afflicting London, yet indulge a passion for Impressionism at the same time with a visit to Sydney; air fares are about as low as they will ever be.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales is hosting the final week of its Classic Cezanne exhibition. The show is a collection of works from all over the world, including loans from the Louvre and the National in London. Classic Cezanne is at the Art

Gallery of New South Wales (00 61 2 9225 1711). Until 28 February

Fed up with wintry weather here? Head east. March is tackled with pure vitality in north India. The beginning of the month heralds the climax of spring, celebrated with the festival of Holi, starting 2 March. The celebration of colours begins with bonfires to mark the end of winter and to ward off evil spirits. Coloured powder and water are thrown over anyone and everyone. For visitors brave enough to Join in, Agra is said to be the

best place to venture out.

BEATRICE HODGKIN

24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE: ATLANTIS, PARADISE ISLAND and a football-field sized casino, HAVE YOU



ever looked a shark in the eye? Got personal with a cruising barracuda? Diners tucking into

lobster and red snapper in Fathoms restaurant at Atlantis - Sun International's £500m extravaganza in the Bahamas find themselves bang in the middle of the food chain as these sleek marine predators glide behind them, in the world's largest tropical aquarium. From a distance the soaring

sugar-pink turrets of the resort's phish new Royal Towers seem to rise from the ocean waves, joined together by the 10-room Bridge Suite (a snip at £15,000 a night). Film stars can be spotted lounging in the resort's vast sundrenched waterscape - among waterfalls, bridges and winding paths - beside the 60ft Mayantemple waterslide and seven-acre snorkelling lagoon. Treasures from the "real" lost city of Atlantis add a touch of culture. This is a fantasy land, dedicated to delivering the ultimate holidayhotel experience - at a price.

Whatever else Atlantis is, it isn't cheap, and the smart shops - Cartier, Gucci et al - the 38 restaurants, bars and lounges,

can swallow money at a terrifying rate. But, dollars apart, Atlantis is tremendous fun, and wonderful for families. Just don't feed the sharks.

ARE YOU LYING COMFORTABLY?

Best room: Water views cost more. Beware rooms with a view of the building site for Atlantis Phase III. Do visitors in these get a discount? "Er, no ...". Beds in the Royal Towers: King and Queen size Freebies: Neutrogena toiletries Temperature: As you like it with guest-controlled air conditioning, and sliding doors leading to a French balcony

KEEPING IN TOUCH Television: Fifty or so channels Internet: Laptops plug in to a communications socket Phone: \$5.78 per minute to the UK when dialled direct, voicemail Switchboard: In three calls they (1) were engaged (2) picked up after 8 rings (3) picked up immediately. Whatever you ask, the Atlantean operators say "My pleasure", and you feel that it is

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION Paradise Island, Bahamas;

www.sunint.com/atlantis

tel: 001 242 363 3000; Website:

Local transport: Taxis. Many



Royal Towers: the bridge suite costs £15,000 a night

Bahamian drivers carry a Bible in the car, but that won't stop them doubling the price of a ride. It takes 10 minutes or so to get to downtown Nassau Time from Heathrow/

Gatwick: 10 hours to Nassau Airport, then a 25-minute cab ride. Paradise Island has its own airport for local flights to and from Florida Helipad: Yes - or just take the yacht and park it in the 63-slip

THE BOTTOM LINE A double room at the weekend in the 1,202-room Royal Towers costs from \$370 to \$420 (£225-£255) per night in winter, slightly cheaper on weekdays and in summer. There's a 10 per cent resort tax on top, plus a daily \$6.25 for a "maid and energy"

surcharge and a 15 per cent gratuity on food and beverages.

A cooked "Atlantis" breakfast

is \$19.50; plus gratuity, plus a \$2 room-service delivery charge. A lunchtime Caesar salad (\$11) in the casino's Atlas Bar and Grill was disappointing; the "shaved" parmesan was powdered, the dressing bland and the few small pieces of chicken (an extra \$8) were small, stringy and fatty. Service was charming, though,

I'm not paying that: Look out for packages - Kuoni offers seven nights, including BA flights, for £1,137. Or book into one of the less expensive, older sections of the resort ~ Beach Towers - from \$240 (£150) per night.

Still too much? Check into the Sivananda ashram, just down the beach. It's only \$60 (£37) or so a night and with eight hours' "mandatory" yoga and meditation a day you'll be too tired to spend a cent.

RACHEL HENRY

VANDA R

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Voice

SOUND LIKE YOU?

ORIENTAL SPICE

Petite, professional lady, 30+, 5', GSOH, fun, likes

travel, music, salsa, seeking a lunny, professional, confi-dent, caring gentleman, 30s-40s, to enjoy lite with. Cambridgeshire area pre-ferred, 255269

Chinese female, 35, student, enjoys music, reading, films, travel, seeks a friend, 35-40, tall, elim, IVS, well educat-

tall, slim, N/S, well educat-ed. London area. 125102

Please call again, as details were lost. I would like to get in touch. Life's difficult in a call box. 274364
FIRST-TIME

PIRST-TIME
ADVERTISER
Professional, active single
mum, 54", N/S, rednead,
green eyes, sives outdoor
pursuits, DIY, crafts, reading,
theatre, eating in/out, seeks
tall male, 45-55, N/S preferred, GSOH, nice personality, for friendship, possible
relationship, 375276
SEEKING
CREATIVE MAN
Sim, attractive brunetie, 45,

Sim, attractive brunette, 45, 5'4", independent, genuine, fun, positive. London and

fun, positive. London and Surrey preterred. 124977 LONDON WOlldAN Warm, bright and easygoing, young late 50s, likes travel, film, theatre, music, reading, walks, seeking a special man, sociable and emotion-ally alliverhinking, to share fun, triendship and whatever. 275142

PETITE BRUNETTE

Good-looking Russian lady, 34, seeks mature, reliable,

sincere man, to start a long-term relationship, possibly leading to more, 12:5134 BRIGHTON BELLE

BRIGHTON BELLE
Paradoxical, assertive, atruistic, creative, caring, leo
female, seeks charismetic
maile, brave anough to
explore both the Amazon
and the child within. £75048
BACK FROM ABROAD
Intellectual, active, music
journalist. 36, slightly unconventional, Cambridge graduate, likes to laugh, seeks
positive, well-travelled gent,
similar age, to explore life.
London. £4974
REAL WOMAN

Stylish London lady gradu-

ate, 30+, mixed race, warm lively, arts oriented, seeks soul mate, 36-50. Oxford/London. 274843

THOUGHTPUL
COMPANION
Independent, Dawn Frenchtype lady, 46, with Inhalfgence, humour, and warm
heart, likes books, gardens,
leanagers, lakes, lively conversation, seeking congental
male company.

male company. Leicestershire area, 15:5063

Now sightly faded, to attrac-tive grandmother, 67, seek-ing e true, male triend, GSOH, to share theatre.

music, travel, metaphysics and a bellef in miracles, NW Marichester, \$75099 RESPONSIBLY

Attractive Amazonian, 33, seeks loyal man, 32-40, with brains, SOH, hair and suc-casatul career, London.

GERMAN FEMALE

FORMER JUNGESQUE BEAUTY

REAL WOMAN

*THE INDEPENDENT

CALL:

0897554555 to respond to any ad. Calls cost the normal BT premium rate of the per minute at all times.



TEL: 0171 293 2222

ATTRACTIVE AND POLITE Feminine Continental lady, early 40s, seeks cultured man, 40+, for friendship. man, 40+, for friendship possibly more. London. 15:5259 ROMANTIC LIBRAN

Female. N/S, no ties, solvent, into antiques, films, yoga, loves life, travel, sunsets, seeks semi-retired, well-balanced male, solvent who's slim, presentable and enjoys ble. London, 125162 ARAS MAN SOUGHT Italian, professional lady, seeks professional Arab man, 30-35, preferably Iranian, Pakistani or

man, 30-35, preferably Iranian, Palustani or Lebanese, for friendship and more. 175262 STRONG BUT SWEET Attractive, 3m, fively brunette. 3m, fively brunette, 30, enjoy most things in life, seeking a con-siderate and attractive man, siderate and attractive man, to share evenings in/out with. London/Surrey. \$5265 CREATIVE & ATTRACTIVE intelligent lemale, mid-40s, green eyes, reddish half, freckles, seeks similar male, tor fun and triendship. Sussex based. \$75260 FRIENDLY

FRIENDLY
Practical, professional, petite
female, early 40s, GSCH,
loves weekends, work, staying in, riights out, seeks
happy, attectionate, intelligant, solvent male, for
triendstip, possibly leading
to relationship. South/ central London area. #25280

ATTRACTIVE ATTRACTIVE & INTELLIGENT

Black woman, seeks man, 50-60, any nationality, who, like me, leels at times it would be nice to share the simple things, like eating together, theatre and talking. I goden \$25557. ondon 13:5257 SOUL MATE FOR MILLENNIUM?

ious interests, such as win-ing, dining, cinema, country-side, books, friendship and ımbridge area. 12:5283 LOVELY LADY Bath-based lady, aged 49, N'S, divorced, solvent, ticated, artistic seeks caring, communica-tive, solvent male, 40-60, N.S. for walks, talks, laughs and cuthiles, if you can

cook, please ring me. OXFORD BASED Tall, retired lady, 60, seeks unattached, N/S gentleman, 57-69, with comfortable lifestyle, car owner, for higher land or determined.

☆5281 Genuine, polite, attractive London woman, seeking a kind, sensitive, warm man, 40+, for freendship and love.

LONDON LADY Good-looking female, just 45, 54, GSOH, light brown-blue, self-employed, various interests, likes clas-sical music, story-telling, re, travel, arts, s ming, horse riding, salling, sports, seeks like-minded man, 185246 BLUE MOON BLUE MOON
Kind, loving, sensitive,
warm-hearted temale, 37.
attractive, creative, seeks
male sout mate, of similar
nature, 36-46, with GSOH,
tor special friendship/relationship. Herts area. 75101
EASTERN ENGLAND
Sim and attractive professer-

Intellectual, active musical journalist, aged 36, slightly unconventional, Cambridge

graduate, likes to laugh, seeks positive, well-travelled gent, similar age, to explore ito, London, 12:4974

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS

ABSOLUTELY PABLICOUS
Amculate, athletic, amable, attractive, profossonal woman, who is a
furm, N.S. many interests,
sacks samital male, in his
40s. West Madlands area
preferred, 1750,78

Fitness, masic and intellect are three important strands in the life of this slim-built, active woman, 49, Essoy.

SHARE MY JOY OF LIVING

GEHMAN FEMALE
Warm, caring, reliable,
divorced female, younglooking 44, 577, medium
build, copper/blue, attractive,
two children, into reading,
music, countryside, animals,
cooking, restaurants, theattra, cinema, more, seeking
a man, for a long-lasting
relationship, London.
225147 T5147 EASTERN ENGLAND
Slim and attractive, independent woman, seeking a lively, energetic, professional
man, N.S., into walking,
countryside, salling, films,
theatre, must be emotionally
available. Solish London and
eastern England 12:5196
BACK FROM ABROAD
Intellectual, active musical TRENDY LEFTY

HEDONISTIC

THENDY LEFTY
Professional, tall, sim, recheaded woman, 40s, with
strong Christian faith, into
havel, music, DIY, cats,
seeks compatible man. No
right-wingers or paramittaries please, London.
254971

POLIDAY PLANS?
Professional female, 47, enjoys walks, badminton, dancing, the arts and of course holidays, seeks lought, and thendship with NS male, 45-50, in the Bristol orea, 12/4973

Call Now!

LTY OWN ARCHITECTI Sim, attractive brunette, 45, 5'4", independent, genuine, tun, positive, seeks man, London/Surrey, £r4977

Warm, Intelligent Woman Creative, successful, various interests, young 47, not stim. attractive, optimistically seeking a male soul mate. South London. All replies HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
Cancerian seeks black, capricom academic, late 40s preferably, with more intellect than attitude, likes books, going to movies, paries, romance, loyalty, close-

ties, romance, loyalty, close-ness, long conversation and youl London. 225143 PERMANENT BLISS?

PERMANENT BLISS?
Stim, sparky, outpoing, attractive blande, 43, likes good food/wine, Hampstead, family life, country walks, clistikes teng shui, jazz, smokers, seeles contident, amusing, intelligent chap, for permanent biles. London. 37:5148
HI THERE
Female, 37, 516°, dark/blue, etim build, enjoys sports, eating out, new places, seeks outpoing, successful, well-built, sensitive man, with similar interests.
London. 37:4970
VIVACIOUS VEGETARIAN
Attractive, redneed, 36, green eyes, medium build, divorced, into animal rights, seaside, candies, joss-sticks, honest and fum, seeks attractive, namel. tive. happy, sensitive, anima loving male, 35-45. Lincs. 12:4964

FEISTY BUCKS BELLE
Artistic, articulate afternative, eclectic, energetic, intelligent, impulsive, authoring, officeat, ormifarious, undeunted, untipoical, unfasable formale, seeks talk, N/S, sensitive man, with ideas. Milton Keynes. 174959

Any Gueries? If you should have any questions about any aspects of our Voice Personals* service, please call FREE on 0800 218 251

VERY SMILEY Single mum, 34, brunetta, with mercliess teenagers, seeking creative man, with fibrary, who likes cats, can make me laugh, thinks later ally and isn't we Avon/surround. 174961
SEEKING NEW LIFE
ACROSS SEAS
Attractive female, early 30s.
seeks tall, dark and handsee's tail, dark and hand-some, caring, good-natured, solvent white doctor or stre-lar, 30-40, with GSOH, who maybe elso wishes to emi-grate to, for example, Bermuda. Looking for 1-2-1 relationship. Herts area. 785044

ARTISTIC LADY
Divorced, blonde female,
mid-40s, Hampton Court
based, crazy SCH, toves
arts, seeks like-minded, protessional man, 274978
HUGH!
Trank you for two woodschill Thank you for two wonderful dates, in the restaurant, movie and pub. Looking for-ward to the third date, a

walk and a chea in the park, as promised. Cheers, Susan. 755045 LOVE AND RESPECT very auracave rady, 20, 57°, dark brownthrown, one daughter, seeks handsome, loving, loyal male, up to 39, to share happy times. Has varied interests. Leeds area only, 125027

ATTRACTIVE Altractive female, 42, inde-pendent, enjoys country pur-suits, good times, seeking male, IVS, ege not impor-tant. Harepshire based. 75508

SHY BUT FEISTY Altractive female social worker, 36, into arts, dancing, seeking an intelligent, caring, furny male, aged 30-40, any nationality. London, 12:5062 RE YOU

ARE YOU
MY SPLIT APART?
I'm 35, solvent, sporty, successful, single, sifty, with caring nature, interested in travel and the arts, tooking for like-minded male, 30-40, NS, for interests in readily. Northants area. '25 5035
PROFESSIONAL & INDEPENDENT Erudite woman, mid-40s, 59°, medium-built, own successful business, enjoys badminton, jogging, country-side, theatre, ravely, spirituality, tarot, good conversation, red wine, seeks intelligent, professional, non-chauvinstic, tall, well-buil man, 35-45, Hudder sfield: west Yorks. 12 5010

To respond to any Voice Personals' ad call 0897 554 555 Calls cost £7 par menute at all times

A COMPLETE MAN A COMPLETE MAN Sturning black professional female, 30s, sporty, finan-cially independent, enjoys theatre, travel, dining, danc-ing, and Letin American music, seeks focused, con-siderate, financially secure, confessional centileman. professional gentleman, GSOH, mid-30s, 50s, for relationship, 254921

Slim, ettractive, heppy woman, mid-40s, fit, blonde, South Cumbria, seeks simi-ler, denk man, under 50. 124847

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FOR A FRIEND Well-travalled, easygoing and optimistic female, 43,

recently back in London, GSOH, seeks professional, sociable male, up to 55, with

Lively, positive, sophistical-ed, successful, professional Asian Hindu female, 33, interested in the arts, based

in Northants, seeks like-minded, unattached, sin-cere, N/S male, 33-38, for

positive outlook, N/S, to

share varied activities.

CHARNING

seeking

AND STYLISH

LOVE AND THE CITY LOVE AND THE CITY
Attractive, Intelligent
Continental lady, 30, petite,
blue eyes, long hair, well
educated, affectionate, considerate, seeks white. Asian
or Oriental, sincars gantleman, for long-term relationship and lasting love. London #500 ORIENTAL ACADEMIC Chemial, aged 38, artidesign historian, petite, attractive, into arts, politics, world outsine, seeking a cultural man, aged 35-45, academic/design professional preferred. London. \$25061 MARRIAGE MINDED Tell, attractive male, 35, seeks female soul mate, for lite's pleasures, Lendon, OXFORD BLUES Bored, postgraduate stu-dent, 28, seeks petite temale, for very close relationship. \$75161 SMILING EYES

Young male, 41, cultured, diverse, amusing, active, seeking a female, 28-33, for thendanip, romance and a tamily. Ring me and I will make you smile. Bath based. 7:5261

Any Queries? it you should have any question about any aspects of our bice Personals" service, pleas call FREE on 0800 216 351

Said the Buddha. ...Sad Tile Buddha.
Interesting mele, eged 54,
5'9", good build, Windson/
Eastbourne based, likes
waterfanow sking,
travelling, dhving out and
weetkends sway, seeking a
genuine lady, aged 45-55;
175206

Leo - Born leaders, powerful personalities, never half-hearted, very confident. in their own abilities and frequently domineering. Compatibility: Aries, Sagittarius and Aquarius.

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MAN SEEKS WOMAN Unconventional, intelligent, articulate men, 50, into

pulse, music, politics, with GSOH, seeks similar, radical woman, for exciting times. Bristol/ London, 275207

Bradshaw's Army, whether a general/foot soldier, a 38-

year-old recently separated

yeart-so recently apparately gentleman, is re-entering the dating war. Unsoded by years of attrition and battle, I hope to capture someone's heart soon. London area.

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BE SERSTRIE: We suggest that the first cleating abusys be held in a public place and that you do not reveat your hill mane, address or home phose comber until you are comfortable doing an Respectable black male, 25, Oxford based, seeking a female. If you enjoy films, classical music, jazz and fun, give me a call. If you don't, please call me anyway!, rt 5201

COCKNEY REBEL SEEKS MR SOFT SEEKS MR SOFT
Shy lady, 40ish, seeks man
to bring a fittle sparkle, files
walding, theatre, dining a
movies, All replies
answered, 274917
WOMAN PIRATE
Also writer, fronte and gorgeous, fit, well travelled,
rectless and shrowd, files
indigo, seeks pessionate,
nidgo, seeks pessionate,

HELP
I need friend to help me create my vision for the future and to experience the milformium. Attractive, intelligent lemale, seeiong a mate
friend, aged 48-60, arry
nationally, Londoin, 215021
ATTRACTIVE CANCEPIAN
Fernale, 43, blonde/hazel,
577, likes wirting, diring,
socialising, holidays, seeks
gent, 35-55, honest and sincera, for friendship, possible
relationship, 214919

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FINISHING FRISHING TOUCH It all your life is a good-tooking, honest, inust-worthy male, aged 29, 510", brown blue, into tast cars, tastion and holidays, call female, aged 18-35, for a special relationship. Yorkshire/anywhere. 275029

LOTS OF FUN Cood-looking white male, 27, 56°, silm build, browybbe, lives hip hop, cinema, museums, football, seeks attractive female, 18-37. N/S, for trieradship and romance. London. 25264 RED OR WHITE Tall, dark, handsome, pro-tessional (advertising over) male, 32, seeks altractive, Independent female, 25-30ish, to share a bottle or two with. London, 17:5297

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meny features designed to help you meet someone new!

...get past got Cardiff-based computer engineer, 42, dark, slightly overweight, attrac-tive, seeking a warm, preeneyed redread, probably graduate, slightly left of cen-tre, into ares. Phone now to shrow a six. 975283 INCURABLE ROMANTIC Well-built, professionat, out-going male, 44, N/S, seeks temale, 30-45, for long-term, loving relationship, who enjoys countryside, National Trust, arts and travel.

ASIAN MALE... ...37, medium build, graduate in social policy/politics, NW London based, excellent versationalist, GSOH. апу origin. 275090

BELATED VALENTINE outdoors and world travel, seeks lady, 23-33, to share laughter and intendship, 175279 FARAWAY LOOK

Intelligent, down-to-earth male, 39, seeks similar,

unpainted woman, 175161

Strikingh handsome, tall, dark, athletic, professional male graduate, into sculos diving, good literature, eati out, seeks lady, traptre me out, seeks lady, traptre me to spin tales of Gaelic won-DUBBLY BLACK/WHITE

Mais, seeks blackwhite, medium/weil-built, athractive fernale, 27-37, GSOH, who likes a good laugh. Cambridge London, Single mum welcome, 13:5096
SACRED UNITY
Creative, N/S, N/D, world citizen, into spirituality, humanity, reality, wishes to share infinite space, with tough, beautiful, independent, serane, stylish, successful, set-essured, un-tall, un-addicted, younger female, in 30s. Europe, 17:5155 thinks sharing is better, who's also looking for car-ing, faithful partner and friend, \$25275 LIKES A LAUGH

Lines a Laurer Young male, 41, cultured, diverse, amusing and active seeking a female, aged 25-33, for friendship, romence and a family. Ring me and If make you smile. Bath based, 12:5074. EASTERN PROMISE
Easygoing bloke, 50, Bees
eating out, cinema, walks
and more, seeking en outgoing, friendly, Thai/Asian female, for one-to-one rela-tionship. Central London.

CREATIVE
Good-looking, professional
but unconventional male, 32,
enjoys creating and listering
to music, travel and life,
seeking a leminine, withy
female, Midlands area.
155080
CARING AND ROMANTIC
Mate, 30, tall, stim, enjoys
keep-fit, good lood, conversation, country walks, nights
in or out, seeks lady, for
friendship, fun, leading to
possible romance. Yorkshire
area. 154960
TOWN/COUNTRY HOUSE
Outet weekends beside
beautiful beaches, offered to
strassed, stim, professional
London girl, 20-40, by handsome, romantic, stightly mad
guy. 155976

Clubland

STILL PLENTY TO DO
Active male, aged 60, into canels, Fairport Convention, Whitam Morris, travel, Nopal and Corrwall, seeking a fellow traveller, non-smoker to share boat/the world. West London. 12:5071 YOUNG AMERICAN Male, 30, GSOH, very attractive, seeks black/Asian

attractive, seeks black/Acian female, for great times, in the Midlands area, 255133 HERTS MAN Skin, tall, fit, professional man, 45, seeking friendship, with a clear-minded but sen-sitive lady, NIS, 255159

sitive lady, NIS. 255159

MUSIC MAN
Torquay bloke, 49, dark hair,
sim build, GSOH, tives by
the sea, enjoys sport,
jazzhusex/desscial music,
outdoor activities, seeks
smert, outgoing lemale, 2540, for friendship, poesibly
leading to more. 255046

FRIESH NEW YEART
GOOD-looking, professional

FRESH NEW YEARI Good-looking, professional male, 31, 5'10", seeks skin-ny/big-bult bubbly female, any age or colouz. Very large women we/come. If you leave a message. I promise to get back to you. 25'153 BROAD HORZONS Cischem-based achurated

BROAD HORIZONS
Clapham-based, educated, sim, fit, nice-looking, worldly guy, 42, with many indoor and outdoor cultural interests, seeking a similar lemale, 35-45, with similar back-ground, with broad interests/mind and horizons, for whatever transpires.
275135

RECKLESS YOUNG MAN

PLEASE CALL AGAIN
Unable to contact you by Email. Maile, 30, 67,
brownthise, everage build,
good-looking, enjoys most
things in life, likes music,
sport, very confident, outgoing, laid back, seels female,
aged 25-33, who's attractive,
lively, for relationship.
125086 TALL SUM DESIGNER Design Consultant/pert-time songwriter/producer, 45, 6', silm, fit, own fight brown hair, GSOH, seeks tallish, sim, intelligent, gorgeous ladv. 30-40ish. Central London. 25154

PLEASE CALL AGAIN

RED ALERT Red-headed female, with medium build, intelligence, sought by black guy, 29, 6', sim build, into blues rock, reading, cinema. London. 224962 LONDON

Professional musician, 47, 5'6", boyish good looks, brown/blue, N/S, N/O, likes sunstane, country walks, music, arts, seeks sweet-heart. 115094 OFFBEAT GRADUATE Affectionate and companion-able, seeks animal-loving

acte, seeks animal-toving femala compenion, 50+, to share art galleries, concerts cinema etc., also exploring London or country, conver-sation and other simple pleasures. 72:5151

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ARE YOU OUT THERE? Artz 100 001 THERE? Romantic male, eged 37, 511", black/blue, into coun-tryside walking, keep-fit, travel, seeks intelligent, attractive lady, 27-32, to share the good things in life with, Brighton area. 275182 STOP...READ THIS STOP_HEAD THIS
GOOd-looking, geruine male,
mid-40s, 5'8', based in
Brighton, silm build, N/S, into
food, travel, cheme, aports,
leisure, seeks female, 36'46,
any nationality, for companloratin, possibly lots more,
155'160
TSY LEE

RECKLESS YOUNG MAN Educated graduate, 24, seeks intelligent, older lady, for sympathy, friendship and romance. London and South. 125093
GENURIE PROFESSIONAL Considerate guy, 28, with CSOH, enjoys cirems, travel, culture, seeks attractive lady, 23-35, with view to a possible religionship. ble relationship. TRY LIFE T 4975 Yorkshiremen, 37, 61, fit, professional, seeks intelligent, articulate female, 25-38, to share interests, food, Bored postgraduate student, 28, seeks pattle female, for very close relationship. 375161 OXFORD BLUES wine and outdoor pursuits. Glouds. 275103 WHEN LOVE FINDS YOU

SEPIGING A GEPLETREND Sensitive, Swedish, white male, 23, seeling a caring termale, 20.30, for charts, diner etc. Ruffiring, 125082 BRIGHT EYES Extensitive productions and Black professional, 47, many interests, seeks attractive white female, 25-39, similar interests, for triendehip, leading to e relationship. #515Ď SACRED UNITY SACRED UNITY
Active, creative, N/S, N/D
world citizen, into spirituality,
learnanity, reality, wishes to
erhare infinite space, with
lough, beautiful, independent; serges, stylish, successial, self-essured; un-tall,
younger temale, in her 30s.
Europe, EE5155
POSSIBLE FUTURE
Midlands/Warwickshire-

25085
TALL JEWISH MAN
Professional, alim-built, intelligent, funny man, seeking
the woman missing from his
file; 32-40.1 London, 155145
SPICE MAN SPICE MON.
Askan male, 38, seeks
lemale, 25-35, for friendship,
hights in/out, cardilles and
possibly more. Bristol.
TH4845
CULTURAL CONNECTION Midlands/Warwickshire-based, German-born male, mid-50s, 6°2", blue eyes, seeks attractive, tall, slimseeks attractive, tall, sur-nish, feminine lady, under 65, who enjoys life, but

zest for life essential.

zest for life essential.
Sussex. 15:5063
ROMANTIC MAN
Male, 21, 5"1", N/S, brown/
blue, varied interests, pubs,
clubs, more, outgoing, seeks
standar lensels, 20-30, for
nights in/out. South Wales.
15:5025
HADDY CLIV

HAPPY GUY HAPPY GUY
Aslan male, 27, GSOH, stim,
good-looking, PhD student,
fikes movies, books, intellectual, seeks female, 25+,
warm and attractive, for fun
end frotes. Cambridge area.
**Sn77.

#15070
ARAB GUY
Young, handsome black
gentleman, 31, 577, very
pood-looking, seeks femak
25-30s, to shear life's pleasures and maybe more.
#15023
ROMANCE
N SCMEERSET N SOMERSET

IN SOMENSET

Tall, stim, attractive, genuine, honest, professional
gent, fiving in Somenset,
enjoys foodwine, travel;
augriter, conversation, outdoor activities, seeks similar,
classy, intelligent, silmmish
lady, 40tsh, for file, love and
laughter, 174818

FIT, 40s
Romantic, caring male, 40s,
55°, simulatiletic build, into
running, cycling, arts, countyside, seeking a temale,
aged 30-45, to share all or
none of the above.
Yorkshire, 35018

maleorde

MEADY TO GO!
Male, late 20s, 5'8", dark
brown/greeny blue, enjoys
most things in life, GSOH,
seeks female, for friendship,
backpecking abroad and
who knows? 254920
TALL GUY

TALL GUY
HERIFORDSHIRE
Attractive, Intelligent and sensitive man, in late 30s, with
GSOH, seeking a lady, for
relationship. 25:5141
Tall, slim, professional, educated mate, 42, enjoys
socialising, art galleries,
pountryside, seeks intelligent, attractive female.
London. 22:49:72

Call Now! Voice Personals ad call 9897 554 555 Calcol (1) per chan at a light

MALE MUSICIAN/TEACHER

Broston background male, take 40s, 5', coemopolitan, into spirituality, sport, good communication, honesty and empethy, would like to meet a feminine, warm-hearted female, to share out humani-

ty with, 125184 MEET ME HALF-WAY MEET ME HALF-WAY
Attractive, creative, honest,
young English male, 25, sthletic build, blue eyes, likes
travel, sport, music, seeks
beautiful, sitm, educated girl,
jor friendship, leading to 8
genuine long-term relationship, 15-5163
TDEAS TUPEN ME ON
Styl, incurable romantic
teacher, 42, seeks tactile,
sensual lady, for long-term
relationship. Any area,
175183



INTELLIGIENT
PROFESSIONAL
Gay professional mate, '24,
5', brown hairteyes, straight-acting, successful, comfort-able fitestyle, seeks similar man, for sincere relation-who, London, 195107 etilp. London. 121. NOT TOO WILD

NOT 100 William height gay - male, 45, sincere, enjoys - cingma, theatre, quiet rights in, swimming, travel, more seals similar, stable male, for friendship and lasting relationship. Lincs. \$75200 GOOD-NATURED INDIAN
Caring, friendly and affectionals, straight-acting, Intelligent, educated, ordinarylooking, cheerful, profession

build, non-sourie, seeks gen-tine, reliable, stable man, 30-45, for fun, friendship, possibly more. 12:5144

4 atternative/;

MASTERIFUL Good-looking mate, mid-40s, 6°, dark/blue, understanding,

6', dark/blue, understanding, seeks submissive female, to shere mutual awareness and pleasure. Beds/Herts/Cambs/East Anglia. 2:5256 COULD WE BE FRIENDS? Attractive couple, 35/40, seek similar couple, for fun, friendship and outings. Yorkshire area. 2:5267 POSF-OP TRANSSEXUAL Male-to-female, 44, into music, nights out, staying In, having fun, seeks female, for fun, friendship and possibly more. Manchester area. 2:55198 HI THERE! Professional graduate, 25, and control of the control

relationship that will blossom in 1999. NW England.

Creative male, 29, seeks adventurous, intelligent female, to experiment with.

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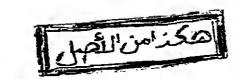








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MODERN MANNERS: YOUR CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE MINEFIELD

Dear Serena A colleague recently went on a threeweek holiday. When she came back. she looked completely different - as though the wind had changed while sbe was bearing some juicy gossip – and has remained that way. She claimed that the holiday was spent at a spa, but we are all convinced that she has had plastie surgery. Does it fall within the code of good manners to ask someone if they've had a face job, or do we have to keep quiet? Jonathan, Brixton

People who spend money on plastic surgery are coovinced that no one can tell they've had it done, much as toupeewearers believe that no one can tell. It is, therefore, very spiteful to shatter their illusions. Unless you really dislike your colleague, it's kinder to keep quiet. If, however, you only dislike her a hit, you can have some fun by expressing concern for ber well-being at regular intervals. "You're looking terribly tired. Are you all right?" is a classic phrase guaranteed to raise a laugh.

Dear Serena, I have been found guilty of whitecollar fraud and expect to be sent away for roughly three months when I go for my sentencing hearing at the beginning of March. My problem is that I've not been able to bring myself to tell my ageing parents. How can I keep the news from them while I serve my sentence?

Charlie, Northants

Look, Charlie: at some point you are going to have to face up to the reality of your situation. If you pretend that your crime and its uncovering have never existed and that you are merely on a sabbatical in inferior accommodation, the likelihood is that you will fail to extract any lessons from the situation and will think that you can get away with further infractions of the law. Which, as you are obviously oot a very competent criminal, will likely result in further jail sentences of greater severity. And then what will your elderly parents think? Instead of spending the time trying to work out bow not to get

caught for a crime you've aiready been canght for, you should perhaps spend it trying to work out a means of breaking the news to your parents with as little hysteria as possible. Remember: a life lived in fantasy is a life unlived.

Dear Serena. I am getting married soon, and am worried that there is some obligation to have a stag night as part of the celebrations. I really don't want one, but feel under some pressure from my acquaintances to agree to having one. Do I have to? Bob, Catterick

No. If they step the pressure up too hard,

Thy are no more poets born under

disabled defectives like Patty Hearst and Sam

chosen to be born under Pisces?

movie rights and died in poverty).

Peckinpah and Cardinal Newman and everyone else

who fell in love with unsavoury maniacs just because

of their firepower. Why else would Ivana Trump have

is said they have all the structure of a glass of water

without the glass. That's why Robert "Madwoman's

massacre the Alamo garrison (but lost control of the

Unsurprisingly, it's the sign of psychic knowledge, of the highest spiritual abilities. Here we find Meher

Baba, the Indian mystic who coined the phrase Don't

Worry Be Happy (he also lost control of the royalties

THE SUN is shining where the sun don't shine. Pluto is brought into play by your ruling planet

and your deepest depths are opened up. With-

out your usual buoyancy, you are thrashing about above a gulf of dark, dark water. Anything

can happen. You find great sexual energies are

made available, but if you can wipe that smirk off your face, there will be far less merit in doing than not doing. Sublimate for psychic success.

Breakfast" Altman is born here, and also that

feckless Mexican who eventually managed to

There is a famous incompetence about this sign; it

Pisces? Well, that shows how much you

actors, drunks and even more generally

know: the sign is swimming in poets,

agree to have one on condition that your fiancee and all wives and girifriends are included in the party. They will stop pestering you immediately.

Dear Serena. My stepsister is an awkward cuss, and can usually be found standing on the sidelines making sarcastic remarks. At our parents' wedding, for instance, when I tried to break the ice in the registry office by kissing the members of my new family, she reacted by starting

backwards and saying *Ooh, very sophisticated" in a tone that implied that I was being pretentious. I have reached my wits' end with her, having my invitations and attempts to be nice

and has thereby assured his place in the pantheon of

mystics, one who expressed the unity of the universe

elephants over what was left when they refused to

answer questions. "You can't hear because you're

not listening!" was said to be the mantra the hero

On the other hand, when Pisceans go the wrong

way they are irredeemable - look at Robert Mugabe

Schopenhauer! Consider Lord Baden-Powell in bed

with WH Anden and Anais Nin! Think about Robert

Wadlow who grew to nearly nine feet before dying at

Pisces is never capable of surprising us, because

we expect anything from them, and finally that's why

and Teddy Kennedy. Look at premier Noboru

differently from the way it's spelt). Think about

Takeshita (whose name is pronounced very

shrieked, even through the act of love.

heaven), and Orde Wingate, one of the few British

by cutting off his enemies' ears and walking his

to her constantly snubbed - but we are linked oow, whether we like it or not. How should I behave towards ber in future?

Lorna, Newbury

Stepchildren often make the mistake of thinking that they should have relationships with the parents' spouses' offspring. This is oot the case. Just because one of your parents married one of theirs doesn't mean that you have to give the silly bitch the time of day if she insists on making things unpleasant, though you should try to keep your feelings to yourself around the parents in question. Presumably, as you are adults, you don't have to see her more than ooce or twice a year at most. From now on, kiss anyone who is nice to you and shake your stepsister loosely by the hand while standing as close to arm's length as you can get. Rude people should be made allowances for when it's obviously a one-off occurrence; if it's habitual, they should be ignored until they can grow up and be civilised.

Dear Serena. I've been publicising my pop career with liberal press releases about my drink and drugs hell over the last few years, but it's getting to be a bit of a strain to keep up. How do I alter my image so I can live a cleaner, more professional life?

R., Natting Hill

If you want to live cleanly, retire. Otherwise, you're going to have to jolly well accept the demands as well as the perks of the rock'n'roll lifestyle. Nobody wants a pop star who tells anecdotes about their health and fitness regime. If you have doubts about this, just keep a picture of Cliff Richard pasted up by your bathroom mirror as a horrible example of what can happen to an entertainer who goes to the bad.

Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena, 'The Independent', 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, where they will be treated with the customary sympathy



YOUR PERSISTENT belief that there must be a better life out there, somewhere, is a source of much discontent. It is certainly true that many of your friends do find themselves in a better position than you (they weren't born under Aries, for one thing) and those who are worse off tend to be somewhat better adjusted to their lot. However, your restlessness will reward you even-tually - that is, you will get what you deserve. Be brave about that and you never know; you may well end up much better off after all.



TAURUS

YOUR PROBLEM is that of infatuation rather than permanent disloyalty. That's the good news. But fickleness frightens you, you've never had enough practice at love nrum. Normally, you are cautious enough to keep friendship from misleading you into acts friends should avoid, but suddenly you are not quite sure of your moral boundaries. Whether you get into real trouble depends on friends. Your dizziness will resolve itself into an even more peculiar period where generosity rules. Will you ever find ideal love?



GEMINT

ARE YOUR friends feeling strong? You are definitely going to oeed something to carry you through the week. It is hard to see your way through the ripple of worry and nameless anxiety. A disabling aspect with Neptune condemns you to the sofa. Here you will be both the object and the cooduit of gossip. You will not be able to keep any secrets, except in the Oxford sense (telling only one person at a time). That is where your friends come in (and, alas, out).



CANCER

WELL-WISHERS MAKE suggestions to improve your life, but your rebuttals are effortless there's nothing anyone can do. While in this voluntary confinement there is at least room for self-improvement. There are corners that have needed cleaning out for a long time (decades in some cases). This aggressive hygiene will stand you well when you re-enter the world: there will be those who no longer dare to make vulgar demands on your exquisite nature.



Virgo

And just ignore those shafts of jealousy.

THIS WEEK, you will be able to do what you do best - get bogged down in unimportant detail and practise inhibition (as well as inspiring inhibition in others). Things won't turn out as hadly as you expect (they couldn't, frankly), but the overload will shut your systems down and after worrying too much, you may suffer a breakdown and become careless (not the same as carefree). Everyone will benefit from a period of your staring wordlessly into space.

SO TALK shows like Vanessa

have been faking it. We non-

to it; so it must be true. It

wouldn't matter that things

were faked, if the boundary

clear labelling.

issues they purport to

mob gets directed at the

scapegoats. I know, I've been

there. But these issues are

this is only entertainment.

intolerance are national

But then victimisation and

pastimes. In the recent show-

being a had manager, but for

being different; of putting a

state religion: soccer. Better

luck next incarnation.

personal religion ahead of the

It is uncomfortable to see

people victimised just for saying

stupid things. Views are not .

changed by hullying and spite,

but by example. By patient discussion. By inspiring. By

their owners being brought

didactic opportunity. But

inconsistency. Stupid remarks,

like mistakes, are a wonderful

intelligent debate was stifled

round to seeing their

experts always thought so. But

now the experts have woken up

between fact and fiction had not

become so eroded. There is no



the age of 22!

we're always disappointed.

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

LIBRA

YOU DON'T know why you are acting like this Clater you will just have to quash the rumour that your parents were cousins). A loss of spirits may lead you into dangerously deep introspection (Librans can't bear too much of that). But your personal recession turns out to have been useful pour mieux souter. Venus is expansive - ob how you enjoy that, and you are not the only one. Indeed, beneficiaries of your erotic expertise can be as numerous as they wish to be. So go on, be really generous with yourself.



SCORPIO

YOU MAY feel a glow from your underworld as the Sun moves in with Pluto. Light will be shed on things which, up until now, have been wisely kept in the dark. Everything that is revealed to you will also become apparent to people oor-mally too stupid to know what they are looking at. Remember about management: everything must have been decided before the meeting they're holding to decide on everything. You will have to do better with your spouse, however.

genetically modified food?

There's no proper labelling.

We've been eating it willy-nilly.

of experts. But it is well known

that for every scientific expert

opposite. It is all a question of

which set of experts you choose.

who gives advice, there is

another advising the exact

Of course Tony has the advice



SAGITTARIUS

YOUR FRIENDS and colleagues welcome your generous nature (if not your generously measured advice). Your cheerfulness is so pronounced as to tire your flaccid contemporaries. Your presence expands into areas you've never experienced - be careful people aren't laughing at your hutt. This paranoia will not prevent you from expressing powerfully phrased emotional analyses of your friends. Remember, if your advice isn't accepted you may find you have to follow it yourself.



CAPRICORN

VANITY, VANITY, all is vanity, Capricorn says, but only because you only ever talk about yourselves. The hall of mirrors you live in throws up some very odd reflections - so odd, you've persuaded yourself that they're other people. Reality breaks in now. The Sun is enlivening Saturn. Through lowerine, limitations and strictures, through bondage and riding-tack, you will find the fulfilment of your dreams. Avoid photography while you're like this. Avoid



AQUARIUS

IN POLITICS, as in love, there is something of the slapper about Aquarius, and never more so than when Venus compromises herself with your ruling planet, as she rather sluttishly does this week. But at least you know you're alive when you're like this. You excel at parties where you can keep moving. Your intense friendliness will be confused for romantic attraction and opportunities will open up as a result. Naturally, you shouldn't take advantage of this; naturally, you



PISCES

DON'T GET suckered into fearing for your health; there are many professionals out there who have a vested interest in persuading you that you are sick. Just cheer up; or more plau-sibly, stop trying so hard to be cheerful. You are blessed with a sublime sense of beauty which will severely hinder your base attempts to get more sex. There may be a religious dimension to this. You are led into the ineffable where you lose yourself in ecstasy. It is all totally normal.

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON GEORGE CRUIKSHANK



Night-mare

EVERY PHOTOGRAPH of caricaturist George Cruikshank catches him on a bad-hair day. He managed to be bald and hairy simultaneously and looked like something he had drawn. Cruikshank didn't care for beautiful things, or at any rate couldn't see them. He drew with the rude, exaggerated gusto of the 18th century, a style now mirrored in the work of Scarfe and Steadman.

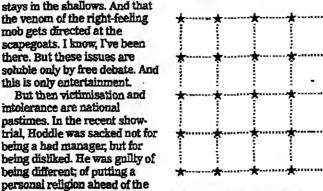
Cruikshank was more affectionate though, and his bumour was rooted in common

experiences, like toothaches and nightmares. Who can say they've oever had this vicious fellow with the spiky fork and Turkish Teletubby hat riding a pig across their chest at night?

Cruikshank didn't care for inventions. He ridiculed rail and balloon travel. Richard Branson would have been his for breakfast. In the end, Victorian society rejected his grotesqueries but he continued to depict it mincing and affected in preposterous clothing - quite a cheek for someone with joke hair.



and passed up for a witch-bunt. I don't hold it against Tony Many of these shows skirt the investigate. Their presenters Blair for stating his views on Hoddle oo Richard and Judy's ensure that the right questions are not asked and the discussion show. I like a man who's in stays in the shallows. And that the venom of the right-feeling



touch with his prejudices. England is our national team,

and we are all entitled to a view. I do, however, hold it against him for lecturing us on what to eat. How dare he export his expertise from an area in which he excels (politics) into an area in which he knows nothing? Avoiding beef was easy, although it appeared in the most unlikely foods. But now that

Blair is his own Gummer's

daughter, how do we avoid

Will we like living in Monsanto Island? Do we want them to build a new Jerusalem in England's ungreeo and unpleasant land? Will hippopotomatoes be safe to eat? Won't gene escape mean a loss of choice? Isn't the ecology damaged enough without

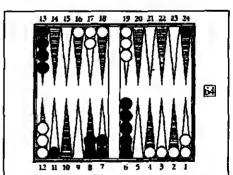
> introducing vast unknowns? This is not entertainment it needs thinking through. We have a right to a view. The message on the side of the yellow lorry that dumped four tons of GM soya on Blair's doorstep at least raised a smile. It read: "Tony, don't swallow

Bill's seed." Soya been warned. Points to Ponder. To judge from the puzzles sent in, Puzzlemaster seems capable of inspiring by example. Rosie Forth of Colchester sends this teaser inspired by the dome puzzle (30 Jan).

Beginning at any star, trace a coolinuous path along the network, visiting each star once and once only finishing where you started. Alternatively, prove it to be impossible. Well? Please send comments to: indy@puzzlemoster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



WHEN SHOULD you offer an initial double? In general, you should do so when you have a threat such that your opponeot will not be able to take a dooble on your oext turn. In addition, the position should be such that you will not immediately lose the advantage whatever happens.

The position above is a classic doubling situation. Black has one man back versus five for white. He has a big lead in the race. He is threatening to hit the man on white's bar-point and/or some of the white men in his home board. If black hits two men, for example with 62 - played 24/18*, 6/4* or 33 - played 7/4(2)*, 6/3(2)*, and white fails to hit back, then black will

have lost his market by a long way. He must double oow to activate his gammon threat tremember the Jacoby Rule states that you cannot win a gammon unless the cube has been turned).

White has a take hut it's closer than you might think. With five men back already it will take a long time for white to establish any position of strength and he will often have to play a back game, oot ideal by any means. When this position occurred in a chouette black correctly doubled. All the team players took and two of them actually beavered - a huge error of judgement but proving, once again, that the biggest errors in backgammon are made with the cube.

BBC1

6.40 Teletubbies (8971599). 7.20 Match of the Day (R) (6497957), 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (44599). 9.30 The Heaven and Earth Show (15334). 10.30 Match of Their Day - Tommy Docherty (33063). 11.00 Porridge (5624). 11.30 CountryFile (6353). 12.00 On the Record (61334). 1.00 EastEnders (1902228). 1.45 A Lifa on the Box - Arthur Lowe (9069131), 2.30 Dad's Army (773). 3.00 EastEnders (5989228), 4,20 Masterchef 1999 (6964711). 4.50 Liteline (1193082). 5.00 News; Weather (8487315). 5.20 Local News and Weather (5095082).

5.25 Songs of Praise. Pam Rhodes visits Winchester (S) (T) (1675179).

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Foggy decides to hold a sweep at a wedding (S) (T) (402).

6.30 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully's in Svon Park, London where finds include an unknown collection of letters from Henry Moore (784841).

7.15 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (S) (T) (598599).

7.20 Holiday Guide to... Africa. Destinations include Cape Town, Tunisia, Malawi and Kenya (132599).

8.00 Comic Relief's Great Big Excellent African Adventure New series in which celebs send videotaped messages back from Africa (559112)

8.50 News; Weather (T) (419063).

9.00 Love Town. More from Gretna Green, including a brother and sister's double wedding (S) (5860).

9.30 The Lakes. John Fisher finally wreaks vengeance on Chef for kidnapping his son (S) (T) (859711).

10.10 Comic Relief Jukebox, Archive comedy clips (S) (T) (139976).

10.30 Harbour Lights. Another chance to see the first episode of the Nick Berry drama series (R) (T) (146501).

11.25 Heart of the Matter. Joan Bakewell on bullying (S) (T) (551604).

12.05 They're a Weird Mob (Michael Powell 1966 UK), Powell and Pressburger tale of an Italian in Australia (Followed by Weather) (248358), To 1,55am.

BBC2

8.50 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9031266), 9.15 The Wayne Manifesto (4554044). 9.40 The Wild House (9154228), 10.05 No Sweat (9666599). 10.30 Grange HII (31605), 11.00 Sub Zero (6913781), 11.20 Grange Hill (6231711). 11.50 The O Zone (3707173). 12.05 The Simpsons (9035614). 12.30 Robot Wars (40841). 1.00 Around Westminster (63353). 1.30 Grandstand (90222995). 1.35 Ski Sunday (9087-537). 2.15 Ice Hockey (62896773), 2.40 Olympic Magazine (5187112). 2.55 Ice Hockey (2571624). 3.35 Rugby Union (3822247). 3.50 ice Hockey (8072773). 4.30 Athletics (4787889). 5.10 Animal Zone (5064112). 5.15 Watch Out Britain (2109976). 5.30 Chimpanzee Diary (880421).

5.50 The Natural World, Bill Oddie narrates a wildlife documentary about ducks (S) (T) (511537).

6.45 Star Trek: Voyager. The crew encounter the Krenim's ultimate weapon-ship (S) (T) (710266).

7.30 The Money Programme. John Prescott reveals his plans for the rail industry (S) (T) (808).

6.00 CHOICE Loyalists. Peter Taylor examines loyalist paramilitaries. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (580082).

8.50 Vintner's Tales (R) (S) (417605).

9.00 Red Dwarf VIII. Another chance to see the first episode of the returned sci-fi comedy (R) (S) (T) (3402).

9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Faye Tozer from Steps and former Sex Pistol Gien Matlock (S) (60605).

10.00 In Stephen's Name (409247).

10.10 CHURS The Colour of Justice. The Tricycle Theatre drama production based on the transcripts of the inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence. See Drama of the Day, below (S) (802334).

12.10 La Separation. (Christian Vincent 1994 Fr). Isabelle Huppert tells her lover and father of her child. Daniel Auteuil, that she has fallen in love with someone else (3960071).

2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Further Education: Effective Communication (14087). To 4am.

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (90266) .8.00 Diggit (2753421). 9.25 Art Attack (4570062) 9.50 The Worst Witch (916158), 10.20 Ghostbusters (1972082), 10.45 Occv (2605624), 1LOO Sunday Morning (56063). 12.00 My Favourite Hymns (427th), 12.30 Crosstak (77995), 1.00 News (94932179), 140 Jonathan Dirribleby (1900860), 2.00 Murder, She Wrote (9180608).

2.55 The Man in the Iron Mask (Mike Newell 1977 UK). Stylish **Dumes adaptation starring Richard** Chamberlain (15380006).

4.50 Big Screen (3293860). 5.25 Local News (8491518). 5.45 News (159063).

6.00 Dream Ticket, London's modern architectural gems and whale watching off America's east coast (570).

6.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of Music. Musical game show (S) (T) (37860).

7.30 Coronation Street. Martin cets a shock at the nursing home (S) (T)

8.00 Heartheat. A snobbish couple recently returned from Africa find it hard to settle in the village, while their son appears to be the victim of bullying. Greengrass is furious when David bids for some pigs at auction by mistake (S) (T) (5976).

9.00 London's Burning. Firefighting soap. Chris's suspicions about Recalls relationship with his daughter get the better of him. And Pearce reveals an unexpectedly mecho sida when a horse runs wild (S) (T) (5112).

10.00 Tarrant on TV. Including some of America's most renowned

televangefists (S) (T) (10112).

10.30 News; Weather (T) (274421).

10.45 The South Bank Show. Profies sculptor Anish Kapoor, who has lived In Britain for the last 25 years and had a huge success with his 1998 Hayward Gallery exhibition (760957).

11.45 The Jesus Flies (537421), 12.15 Still in Bed with MeDinner (2109822).

12.50 Dillinger (409667), 2.35 Seequest 2032 (3489919), 3.30 Jonethan Dimbleby (4503323), 4.20 Cybernet (39204193). To 4.45am.

Channel 4

7.00 The Magic Roundabout (3933082), 7.05 Animal Alphabet (3932353). 730 Animal Alphabet (9636334), 7.20 Salty's Lighthouse (8849839), 7.45 Bug Alerti (88353). 845 Saved by the Bell - the New Class (2830976). 8.40 City Guys (9860353), 9.10 Catdog (3485082). 9.45 Planet Pop (1685889). 10.00 The Waltons (34841). 11.00 Hollyosks (2338599), 12.10 Dishes (1404421). 12.40 Dishes (9608976), 1.10 The Cosby Show (652179), 1.45 Football Italie (91486860).

4.00 Till Angels One Five (George More O'Ferrall 1954 UK). Jack Hawkins stars in this Battle of Britain saga (7624).

6.00 Time Team. Tony Pobinson and archaeological chums dig up the '. remains of two Second World War American bombers in the Norfolk marshes. Although the bodies of the 21 dead were removed, the wreckage was left unsalvaged (T) (50228).

7.00 Escape to River Cottage. Selfsufficient Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes fishing and fruit-picking (5889).

7.30 Fusion. Follows the Inner City World Cup - with 32 nations competing

8.00 in Search of Law and Order. Roger Graef goes to Richmond, a poor neighbour of Sen Francisco. where gang involvement, drug abuse and violence are dealt with by the local community (T) (3518).

9.00 Carry On Darkly. The sadder side of four of the finest Carry On actors, Kenneth Williams, Cherles Hawtrey, Sidney James and Frankie Howard, complets with promisculty, wifebeating, compulsive gambling and alcoholism (R) (T) (6082).

10.00 Consored. Mariella Frostrup hosts a discussion on film censorship with journalists A A GIL Tom Dewe Matthews, John Beyer of the National Viewers and Listeners, Association, writer Corinna Sweet and Guy Phelps of the ITC (3048112).

11.05 Eyes Wide Open (537537).

11.20 PHOCH Bad Lieufenant (Abel Ferrara 1992 US), Starring Harvey Keitel, See Film of the Day, below

1.05 Boyz Unlimited (8248342).

1.40 Fill Salon Kitty (Triso Brass 1976 NW Ger) Warming drams (621613). To 3.40am.

Channel 5

6.00 Wildlife SOS (9630315), 6.30 Havakazoo (8396266). 7.00 Dappledown Farm (6607711). 7.30 Mikshake! (5498745). 7.35 Wimzie's House (3869537). 8.00 Mission (4635711). 8.30 Revelation Game (4634082), 9.00 Stickin' Around (4625334). 9.30 Milithar (9653228). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (8387518). 10.30 Valley Between (4621518). 11.00 USA High (2662686), **11.30** Singled Out (2663315), 12.00 The Mag (60861808). 1.10 5 News (80300518). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (89165131). 1.50 Movie Chart Show (11039605), 2,26 Exclusive (5384624). 3.05 Family Affairs Omnibus (63034353). 5.20 Serious Money (21614605).

5.50 Two Much Trouble (Michael James McDonald 1994 US). Cornedy about a pair of naughty young twins who meet their match when they are assigned a new nanny - a hard-drinking ex-con played by Beverly D'Angelo. Ed Begley Jr and Carol Kane play the parents and there's a role for future Friends star Lisa Kudrow (98248315).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (6072353).

8.00 Call of the Wild. Cameramen Dieter Place and Mike Price take up the story of Harriet, an orphatied female leocard cub, as she returns to the jungle of her own accord after three years in the care of an Indian conservationist (S) (T) (1994082).

9.00 Awake to Danger (Michael Tuchner 1995 US). Amnesia thriller with Beverly Hills 90210 starlet Tori Spelling, who can't remember the identity of the assailants who . killed her mother and left her in e come. Naturally they want to bumo her off before it all comes flooding back to her (S) (T) (99376179).

10.50 Wing and a Prayer. Lagal-eagle. series set in the north of England 8635841).

11.50 The Comedy Network (7271976). 12.25 Sports Talk with Steve Scott (4623984). 12.55 Ice Hockey - NHL (S) (95814193). 4.40 Tibs and Fibs (R) (S) (65760803) 5.05 Move On : Up (R) (S) (46503025) 5.30 Serious Morrey (R) (S) (T) (9524700), to cam.

ITV/Regions

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BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 LONDON & SE
except: 10.30 Let Me Emertain
You (34792). 11.00 Harbour Lights
(857773). 11.55 Heart of the Matter
(360957). 12.35 Film: They're a
Weird Mob (960223). 2.25 BBC
News 24 (52700532).

As LWT except: 12.30 Sunday As LWT except: 12.30 Sunday Suplement (77985), 2.00 Eye of the Eagle (6731), 2.30 Living e Bug's Life (841), 3.00 Murder, She Wrote (6861596), 3.55 Film: Murder by the Book (648808), 5.35 Angia News (146599), 6.00 Wildlife Resoue (570), 12.50 Film: Disinger (48597), 2.30 Libeliander Rescue (570). 12.50 Film: Dainger (485957). 2.30 Highlander (485967). 3.25 Jonathan Dimbleby (6902358). 4.10 Cybernet (47738551). 4.40 Soundtrax (8590638). 4.50 TV Nightscreen (38621648). 5.00 Coronation Street (95754).

Central News (48940/31). 2.00 It's Central News (48940/31). Central News (48940/s1). 2.00 fts Your Shout (55545/50). 2.40 Murder, She Wrote (3066792). 3.20 Film: Tobruk (535/8). 5.30 Central News (83995). 6.00 Heart of the Country (570). 4.20 Jobfinder (39204/93). 4.45 it's Your Shout (1440667).

HTV Wales
As LWT except: 12.00 My
Favourite Hymns (4085119). 12.25
Welsh Agenda (1835696). 12.55
HTV News (48940131). 2.00 Film:
The Alamo (8571773). 4-40 Party
In the Park (4124044). 5-40 HTV
News (865353). 6-00 Soccer Sunday (570). 12-50 As Anglia

HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 12.25
Sunday Roast (1835696); 2.00
Murder, She Wrote (3506044); 2.50
Film: Nine Hours to Rama
(15972112); 5.10 Getaways (9974131).
6.00 West Match (570).

Meridian
As LWT except: 12.30 7 Days
(2047137). 12.50 Meridian News
and Weather (26069044). 2.00
Getaways (6131). 2.30 Murder, She
Wrote (29041). 3.30 Film: The
Block Swan (63889). 5.05 Big
Day Out (997580). 5.35 Meridian
News and Weather (146599). 6.00
Monkey Business (570). 12.50 As
Anigia 5.00 Freescreen (95754).

Westcountry As LWT except: 12.30 Westcountry Weekend Match (77995). 2.00 World of Wonder (7795), 225 World of World (62800976), 2.25 Murder, She Wrote (62803063), 3.20 Firm; In Like First (68191773), 5.35 Westcountry News (146599), 6.00 The Great Escape (570), 12.50 As

Yorkshire
As LWT except: 12,30 Trawier
(77995), 2.00 Catendar News
(5220957), 2.05 The Making of a
Bug's Life (7350063), 2.40 Film;
New Love Boat (6269421), 4.00
Videotech Brit Winners Special
421, 4.30 Coronation Street
(63624), 5.30 Catendar News and
Sport (893995), 6.00 Goals on
Sunday 1571, 12.50 Cybernat Sunday (570), 12-50 Cybernet (8002071), 1.25 Film: Anjaam (4201532), 4.30 Jobfinder (77938),

Tyne Tees
As Yorkshire except: 12.30
Newsweek (77995). 2.00 North
East News (52220957). 5.30 North
East News and Sport (833995),
6.00 Cafe Sport (570).

As Channel 4 except: 11.00 Hollycaks (34861995), 12,00 Gogs* (61829179), 12,30 Rownd e Rownd: Omnibws (38433686), 12,40 Feld (7680159), 12,55 Gol (56336112), 1,40 Talksbout Welsh (27490841), 2.00 Flamlo (23167402), 2.35 5700/50e p33/1938), 4.30 Names (81736624), 4.30 Pam Fi Duw? (81736624), 5.30 Newyddion (76548228), 5.35 Nahiffesto (9293353), 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (9708259), 7.30 Botwm 4 (81733537), 8.30 Dechrau Canu Dechrau Cannol (6423571), 8.30 Joni Jones (21081024) 9.05 Provence (98888605) 10.30 Newyddion (99425605) 10.45 Censored (91357353), 11.50 Eyes Wide Open (82388334), 12.05 Film: Bad Lieutenant (86961025), 1.50 Film: Salon Kitty (37793087), 3.50 Close.

DRAMA OF THE DAY

THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE (10.10pm BBC2) After last week's searing ITV drama recreating the events of Stephen Lawrence's murder and the subsequent ordeal of his parents, BBC2 has filmed Tricycle Theatre's production based on the transcripts of the inquiry (the results of which are published next week). The film ends with an unprecedented minute's silence.

and Orchestra of

Wales/Richard Hickox, 9.30 Sunday Play: The Comedy of Errors. By William Shakespeare. In

william Shakespeare. In this new dramatisation by Sue Wilson and Malcolm McKee, it is 1936 and a cruise liner arrives at Ephesus, where BBC travel reporter Gervaise Floukes linds himself

caught up in some , strange local customs. With Peter Jeffrey, Michael Maloney, Anton Lesser, Brian Parr and Clive Kneller, Director

Sue Wilson. 11.30 World Music. 12.00 Ulster Orchestra. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night

Radio 4

7:10 Sunday.

from the Back of

1.30 Counterpoint.

LOO NEWS; Writers'

4.30 Fine Lines.
5.00 NEWS; File on 4.
5.40 Letters From Afar.

5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Pick of the Week.

Radio 1 (976-998MHz FM) 6.30 Kevin Greening 10.00 Mark Goodier's Radio 1 Request Show 1.00 Emma B. 3.00

Top of the Pops. 4.00 The Otticial UK Top 40. 7.00 Dance Anthems

with Dave Pearce 10.00 Trevor Nelson 12.00 Emma B 4.00

(88-90 2MHz FM) **7.00** Janey Lee Grace. **9.05** Steve Wrights

Sunday Love Songs 11.00 Parkinson's Sun-day Supplement, 1.00 Desmond Carrington.

3.00 By Popular Demand Hubert Gregy

Remembers Jessie
Matthews. 4.00 As
Time Goes By. 4.30
Sing Something Simple.
5.00 Parn Ayres. 7.00
Hugh Scully. 8.30 Sunday Half Hour. 9.00
Alba Keith 10.00 Mal

Alan Keith. 10.00 Mal-colm Laycock. 11.08 The David Jacobs Col-lection. 12.00 Katrina

Leskanich 3.00 - 4.00

(902-924MHz FM)

6.00 On Air. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sun-

day Morning. 11.00 Artisi of the Week

3.00 Sprit of the Age. 4.00 100 Great Singers. 4.15 Centunons.

4.30 The Year.
5.45 Sunday Feature:
Viewing the Century Derek Walcott.

6.30 Private Passions.

Kay introduces a perfor-

mance of Haydn's 'The Creation', the resound-

ing and uplifting response of the ageing

composer to the orato-rios of Handel Nancy

Argenta (soprano), Jóhn Mark Ainsley (tenor). Gwynne Howell (bass). BBC National Chorus

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Encore. 12.15 Music Matters.

Lunchtime Concert

Alex Lester

Radio 3

6.30 Cive Warren

Radio 2



DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

LOYALISTS (8pm 88C2) Veteran chronicler of the Troubles, Peter Taylor. begins a new three-part series getting under the skin of loyalist terrorists who have killed more than a thousand people, mainly Catholics, since 1969. They include the legendary Gusty Spence, his film-star looks of 1972 turned all grey and avuncular, and "the sectarian genie", Ian Paisley.



FILM OF THE DAY

BAD LIEUTENANT (1120pm C4) Harvey Keitel's Last Tango in Paris (although the film itself is not a patch on Bertolucci's 1972 masterpiece) - a raw, honest performance in Abel Ferrara's baroque (to say the least) character study. Keitel is a depraved, debt-laden, crack-smoking New York cop who finds bizarre salvation while investigating the rape of a nun.



SATELLITE & CABLE (36347), 12.00 Rugby Union Update England v Scotland (74570), 1.30 World Sport (89599), 2.00 Superbouts Manchi v Arguelio (94773), 3.00 Wimbledon v Aston Villa (615268), 6.00 Scotlish Footbal Motherwell v Cattle (185315), 8.30 Footbal League Review (17315), 9.30 Spanish Footbal (95782), 11.30 Footbal Special Wimbledon v Aston Villa (91792), 1.00 Scotlish Footbal Motherwell v Cettle (27025), 2.00 Close, Silvy Spanets, 2

7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Do the Right Thing. Human behaviour dis-sected with wit and wisdom by Jane Thynne and guests, this week including Tony Banks 8.00 NEWS: Fat

RADIO

Chance. By Jenny McDade. Celebrity becomes Tria Tatter sall's escort for the night in a bid to make her errant husband jealous. The rest of the simming club has surprising news. With Gareth Corke, Janine Duvitski and Michael Troughton, Part 2 of 5. 8.30 Law in Action. Marcel Berlins investi-gates how the law works

(92.4-946MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing 6.05 Something Underand where it goes wrong 9.00 NEWS; On Giant's 6.35 On Your Farm. 6.57 Weather 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers. Shoulders, Astronomer Royal Professor Sir Mar-tin Reee and science writer John Gribbin explain why Sir Isaac 7.55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from Ameri-Newtons legacy is so important, and how his genius has shaped the history of modern sci-ence. Presented by Melvyn Bragg. (R) 9.30 Analysis. Do Parents Matter? The Gov-9.00 NEWS; Broadcasting House 10.00 The Archers. 11.15 Desert Island erriment wants parents to take more responsibi-ity for their childrens Discs. 12.00 NEWS; Tales behaviour. But recent research suggests a child's personality is shaped most by genet-ics and the influence of Beyond. 12.30 Just a Minute. 12.58 Weather. LOC The World This other youngsters. So what difference does good parenting make? Presented by Frances Caimernse 2.00 NEWS: Garden ers' Question Time.

2.30 A Statch In Time.

3.00 NEWS; The Classic Sersial: Joseph Cairneross 10.00 NEWS: The

Westminster Hour. Andrew Rawnsley pre-sents the political head-lines of the next week.

live from Westminster.

Including 10.45 Now that History Hasn't Ended.

Four talks by political writer and philosopher John Gray about the end of the 20th century and the world we live in now. 2: The Free Market versus Bourgeois

Life'.

11.06 NEWS; The
Learning Curve. Libby
Purves with the guide to
the world of learning,
with practical advice. features and your views. 11.30 Something Understood. 12.00 News. 12.15 Diaries of Today. 12.30 The Late Story: The Other Woman. 12.48 Shipping Fore-cast

cast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. Radio 4 LW (198kHz) 12.00 - 12.04 News Headines; Shipping Forecast 8.00 - 10.00

Open University. Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Briel Lives 6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Neil.
9.00 SportsWeek.
10.00 Hayes on Sunday.
12.00 This Football 12.30 The Media Show. 1.00 Sunday Sport. 6.00 The Scottish Premier League. 8.00 News Extra. Susan Bookbinder with the news and business round-up. 8-30 Brief Lives, 5 Live's obituary column.

9.00 Dailyn Worldwide Richard Dallyn with in-depth news and the sto-

nes that matter from around the world.

9.30 Out This Week

The lesbian and gay

news magazine.

10.00 Late Night Currie. Edwina Currie discusses the weekend's big issues. Phone 0500 909693. Plus a full news briefing at 1100. 100 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Reports. Classic FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Sarah Lucas. 9.00 Classic Romance.

9.00 Classic Romance.
12.00 Across the
Threshold with David
Meilor. 2.00 Alan Mann.
4.00 Margaret Howard.
6.00 Countdown Top
Ten. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00
Sunday Night at the
Opera. 11.00 Michael
Mapph. 1.06 Evening
Concert. 3.00 - 6.00
Mark Griffiths.
Viscilia 15.00 - 6.00 Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1250kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Mark Forcest

10.00 Danny Baker, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Jeney Lee Grace, 7.30 Harriet Scott / AM from 6.45 Janey Lee Grace. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen. World Service Radio (198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today.
1.30 Meridian (Feature).
2.00 The World Today.
2.30 Pick of the World.
3.00 The World Today.
3.20 Soorth Deads.

3.20 Sports Roundup.
3.30 Global Business.
4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00). Talk Radio 6.00 Paul Ross, 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens. 12.00 Russell Grant. 3.00 Nicky Home's Access All Year. 6.00 Let's Talk Comedy with Don McLeary and with Don McLeary and Sanjeev Corii, 8,00 Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving, 10,00 James Whale, 1,00 6,00 Mike Dickin

Sky Premier 6.00 Ferrines Fateles (42957). 7.00 The Good Old Boys (1995) (48204). 8.00 The Swan Princess; the Secret of the Castle (1997) (35808). 10.30 Diagonisart (1995) (78353). 12.30 Hollywood Buzz (17537). 1.00 The Good Old Boys (1935) Buzz (17537), 1,00 The Good Old Boys (1995) (58557), 3,00 The Swan Princess: the Secret of the Castle (1997) (52421), 5,00 Dragornisert (1995) (70518), 7,00 Turbo: a Power Rangers Movis (1997) (95979), 9,00 Barry Nor-man's Firn Night (47507), 9,30 Im Losing frou (1998) (466319), 11,15 Courage un-der Fire (1996) (335044), 110 Last Danos (1996) (95230), 2,55 - 6,00 Crime of the Century (1998)

(S2911342).
Sky Movřetile x
5.00 Buck and the Magic
Bracist (1897) (18229).
9.00 Cosmic Shock (1997)
(99053). 10.00 The Fallen
Sparrow (1943) (95315).
12.00 Psylng to Win
(1997) (59686). 2.00 Mr
Hoterds Opus (1953)
(96887082). 4.25 Buck and
Magic Bracelet (1997)
(83861247). 6.00 Cosmic
Shock (1997) (2890). 5.00
Hard Way (1991) (44605).
10.00 Kier: A Journal of
Munder (1896) (225421).
11.35 Salvador (1966).
(8990247). 1.45 Eyewitness (1981) (868822). 3.25
Temptress (1995) (197657).
5.00 - 7.30 Mr Hoterdis
Opus (1995) (275613).

Opus (1995) (275613).

Sky Cimema 11.00 Morkey Business* (1952) (53127599), 12.45 Frebal* (1950) (3976599), 2.15 Rebecca* (1940) (16437296), 4.30 Contraband* (1940) (4038773), 6.00 Magic Town* (1947) (1751773), 8.00 Towering Inferio (1973) (86273537), 10.45 Big Sky* (1952) (266421), 12.45 McO (1979) (7069377), 2.40 The Households (1953) (2652935), 4.25 The Chesters* (1945) (11853915), 5.50 Closs. Opus (1995) (275813). Sky Sports 1 6.00 Powerboat (2575) 6.30 Rudby Union Update 63247) 8.00 Aerobio 32357) 8.30 Fight Night (341044) 11.00 Goels

FilmFour 6.00 Forty Guns* (1957)

(8144570) 6.00 The Balled of Little Jo (1983) (8156315), 10.00 Even Cowgris Get the Buses (1994) (2819537), 11.40 Point Breek (1991) (76035629, 1.45 The Man without a Fece (1993) (5621209), 3.35 - 6.00 Sunday* (16112006),

Sunday* (16112008).

Discovery Channel 4.00 Test Fights 8376808). 5.00 Fightine (4345179). 5.30 Cotranels Flenes and Automobiles (3279857). 6.00 Guide to Snekes (8812024). 2,00 Supernatural (432535). 7,30 Creatures Fantastic (228334). 8.00 Men of the Shroud (8971773). 9,00 Wid Rickes (8991537). 10,00 High Wire (8994824). 11,00 Extreme (8994824). 11,00 Extreme (8994824). 11,00 Extreme (8994824). 12,00 Augustine (899082). 12,00 Augustine (899082). 1,00 Augustine (899082).

(27025), 2.00 Close.
Sky Sports 2
6.00 Sports Unlimited
(2618150), 7.00 Aerobics
(718203), 7.30 Extreme
Saling (7348265), 6.00
Soccer (1327888), 11.00
Soccer (1327888), 11.00
Sports Unlimited (5348088),
12.00 Footbal Lasque
Eminigham City v Solton
(7921889), 3.00 Webersports (4682083), 4.00
Motor Sport (3645995),
7.30 Snow Show
(9947800), 8.00 Ford Golf
USA (1643537), 11.00 Mex
Power (4093191), 12.00
Sports Unlimited (4009990),
1.00 Snow Show
(5603483), 1.30 Tristhion
(450183), 2.30 Close.
Sky Sports 3 Sky One 5.00 Hour of Power (58247). Z.00 What a Mess (58247). Z.30 Street Sharks (58727). 3.00 Orson and Olivis (53228). 8.30 Tat-bood Resnage Alien Fight-ers (62598). 9.00 ers (62599, 5.00 Simpsons (86179) 9.30 Garfield (15711) 10.00 Dream Beam (60421), 11.00 Whesting (57957), 12.90 Kung Fu- Lagend Contin-ues (79614) 1.00 Super-men (2062) 2.00 Beverly Hills, 80210 (78711), 3.00 VP (97042) 4.00 Star Trekc Deep Soace Nine (20537), 5.00 Star Trekc Voyager (9680), 8.00 Simpsons (2322), 6.30 Simpsons (2334, 7.00 King of the Hill (7885), 7.30 3rd Rock from Sun (7518), 8.00 (450183) 2.30 Close.

Sky Sports 3
11.30 Futures in Sport
(17158685) 12.00 Basketbal (16031650) 2.00
Fixation (87837976) 6.00
Watersports World
(8778984) 7.00 Smooker
(89495452) 10.00 World
Sport Special (88552334),
10.30 Snow Show
(86561082) 11.00
Triathion(90591976), 12.00
Close. of the Hill (7889), 7.20 3rd Rock from Sun (7819), 8.00 Earth - Final Conflict (48421), 9.00 X Files (SSS57), 10.00 Neled in Westmaster (SS044), 11.00 South Park (21285), 11.30 Forever Knight (SO053), 12.30 Tales from Crypt (10964), 1.00 Sortings (4005), 2.00 - 2.00 Long Play (SSS843),

Cose.

Eurosport
7.30 Motor Sport (45985).
8.00 Sed Dog (50353).
8.30 Sed Dog (50353).
8.30 Sed Dog (50353).
8.30 Sed Dog (50353).
9.30 Nordic Siding (84806).
10.00 Totoggaring (4175).
11.00 Nordic Siding (54875).
11.00 Nordic Siding (54875).
11.00 Speed Sixting (53875).
11.00 Speed Sixting (5363).
11.00 Speed Sixting (53063).
11.00 Speed Sixting (53063).
11.00 Speed Sixting (53063).
11.00 Speed Sixting (53063).

(2942/228). 11.30 Whatsey er Happened to the Likely Lack? (3001960). 12.10 Ruby Wax Meets... Goldie Haym (155990). 12.50 Pride and Prejudice 4/731483). 1.50 Minder (33161025), 2.00 - 7.00 Shopping (6134715).

(33181025), 2.00 - 7.00
Shopping (6134716).
Living 6.00 Tiny and Crew (37576935), 6.20 Johnson and Friends (63483265), 6.30 Greedysaurus and the Gang (1254353), 6.40 Tiny Tales (8491806), 6.45 Pribert the Frog (8491073), 6.50 Poka Dot Shorts (84991044), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5650044), 7.05 Professor Bubble (8291228), 7.30
Barney and Friends (352012), 7.55 Practical Parenting (4974860), 9.00 Callou (8777773), 8.35 Sabaloos (1406857), 8.35 Sabaloos (1406857), 8.35 Callou (8777773), 8.35 Practical Parenting (734570), 9.05 Carlt Cook, Wort Cook (508315), 8.40 Michael Cook (3782402), 10.30 Brookside Omrabus (735250), 12.30 LA Law Omrabus (739632), 10.30 Practical Parenting (7367457), 8.50 Special Sebias (7396524), 5.30 Living issues (3085421), 6.00 Films: Mandy (952) (759745), 5.00 Ally McBeal (750044), 9.00 Jerry Springer Double Bill

(1753131). **11.00** Michael Cole (7616112). **12.00** THT

9.00 Gettysburg (1983) (44863761). 11.30 Three Godfathers (1948) (68305179). 1.30 Above and Beanach (1953) (653/51/9), 1.340 Above and Beyond* (1952) (4f546532), 3.30 The Day They Robbed the Bank of England* (1960) (1676774), 5.00 Close.

Paramount Comedy 4.00 Close

Granada Plus 6.00 Jason King (6667624). 7.00 Bootsie 10.30 Hogaris Heroes (3270095). 11.00 As Granada Meri & Motors (7219889), 2.00 Close

FULL 7-DAY TV AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN 'THE INFORMATION'

ing (982965). 12.30 Close.

UK Gold
Z00 Angels (9452570).
Z30 Middlemarch
(7158889). 8.30 Blelets
Seven (7395179). 9.300 Dr
Who Omnibus; The Reverge of the Cybermen
(61410519). 11.20 Deltas
Omnibus (9048014). 1.00
Filter: Balled of Josie
(1957) (2043911). 3.00 The
Bill Omnibus (95551624).
5.20 Kesping Up Appearances (825082). 6.00 Bellykissangel (90155228).
Z05 The Good Life
(3837195). 7.45 To the
Manor Born (7051637).
8.25 Only Fools and Horses (639044). 9.05 Black
Adder the Third (8248334).
9.45 Black Adder the Third
(2421228). 10.25 Auf
Wiedersehen, Pet
(29420228). 11.20 Whatever
Happened to the Livery
and Zonteson Channel 7,00 Jerry (5501), 7,30 Grace under Fire (7112, 9,00 Ellen (6179), 8,30 Newsradio (5686), 9,00 Cheers (76353), 9,30 Cheers (77334), 10,00 Taxi (94624), 11,00 Selnfeld (38570), 11,30 The Larry Sanders Show (80570), 12,00 Duckman (77735), 12,30 We Know Where You Live (30716), 1,00 72.30 We Know Where You Live (307:16), 1.00 Comedy Store (1074), 1.30 Cu.b Class (57:93), 2.30 Tbs and Fibs (30358), 3.30 Nightstand (30838), 3.30 Abbott & Costello (53938), 4.00 Cose

and Snudge (8674773), 2.30 That's My Boy (8683905), 8.00 Watching (4724501), 8.30 Oherma and Greg (574042), 9.400 Demosey and Makensen and Greg (5174042), 9.00
Dempsey and Makepeace
(5349421), 10.00 Behind
the Velvet Ropes (8193808),
10.30 Hornes with Style
(174298), 11.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes
(8579228), 12.00 The Pro-8579228, 12.00 The Pro-fessionals (7122006); 1.00 Love and Marriage (8573044), 1.30 Please, Sirl (7227850), 2.00 Point (8194537), 3.00 Bonariza (4308353), 4.00 The High Chapterial (438786), 5.00 Chapterial (438786), 5.00 Dharma and Greg (4090889), 8.00 Point (2052119), 9.00 The Profes-

Mark and an arrange of the second of the sec

Classic Coronation Street Omnibus (702071), 7.30 sionels (2157763), 10.00 The Odd Couple (6629137).

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SATURDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (976-998MHz FM) 7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris Moyles 1.00 Emma B. 3.00 Radio 1's R 'n' B Chart. 5.00 Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party. 9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite. 2.00 Essential Mix on Tour. 4.00 - 6.30 Annie Nightingale.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)

evisi Latin Inge

(a,b)

6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show. 1.00 The Smith Lectures. 1.30 The Newty Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes. 2.00 Alan Freeman. 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.00 Joni Mitchell - Both Sides Now. See Pick of the Day. 8.00 The Corrs in Concert. 9.00 Suzi Quatro: Rockin' with Suzi Q. 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dut-

(90.2-92.4MHz FM) **6.00** On Air. 9.00 CD Review.

12.00 Private Passions. See Pick of the Day. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. The seventh of 12 piano recitals is given by prize-winning British pianist Leon McCawley. Mczart: Piano Sonata in E flat, K282. Chopin: Four Impromptus; in A flat, Op 29; in F sharp, Op 36; in G flat, Op 51; in C sharp minor, Op 66 (Fantaisie-Impromptu). Scriabin: Five Preludes,

sharp. (R) 2.00 Best of 3. 3.00 Young Artists' Forum. 4.00 The Secrets of Orchestration. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests.

Op 16: Piano Sonata No 4 in F

6.00 Jazz Century. 6.30 Opera on 3. In Graham Vicks new production. Schoenberg's opera of conflict among the ancient Israelites receives its first ever staging at the New York Met. British singers star in the title roles of the two brothers who agree on the end - the unity of the human race with God's purpose - but fall out violently over the means of achieving it. The third main force in the opera is the Jewish people themselves, personified in some of Schoenberg's most astonishing music as they are torn apart by their longing

8.00 Harriet the Spy (1996) (62827). 8.00

(1997) (20594). 11.00 Two Much (1996)

(97488), 1.00 Movie Magic (57136), 1.30 Action Heroes (9199020), 2.15 UK Top

Planet of the Apes (1974) (12846). 5.00 Two Much (1996) (13643). 7.00 Spice-

world the Movie (1997) (38001), 9.00 Wigstock: The Movie (1995) (9652293

10.35 Wild at Heart (1990) (85994594). 12.45 Breaking the Waves (1995)

(33418957). 3.45 - 6.00 Knights (1992)

11.00 Daddy Long Legs (1955) (32705914). 1.15 The Black Arrow (1948) (47839196). 3.00 House of Seven Gables

527486), 12.00 The Strange Affair of

6.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth

Uncle Harry (1945) (78168711). 1.25 He

(1784001), 6.00 Cleopatra (1963)

(1935) (54189605), 5.45 Close.

len (2237730). 3.00 Farewell to the

SKY MOVIEMAX

68830247).

FILMFOUR

SKY CINEMA

PICK OF THE DAY

BERNARD WILLIAMS, the distinguished discusses his enthusiasm for in Canada and a career that classical music in Private has easily spanned four decades. Passions (12noon R3), an interest that puts him in the of Schoenberg's unfinished company of Schopenhauer and Nietzsche ("an extremely had composer"). His choices include Mozart, Elgar, Bach and Berg. In Joni Mitchell - Both Sides

Now (7pm R2), the singer-

for a physical representation of God. John Tominson, bass (Moses), Philip Langridge, tenor (Auron), Met Opera

Orchestra/James Levine. See Pick of

Bernheimer puts listeners' questions

to Stephen A Brown, Linda Fairtile

ments in creative radio. Eating at

commis chef, will Cooper ever get

his two stars in Hershel's restaurant

guide? With Anton Lesser, Belinda

with John York (piano). Beethoven: Variations on 'Ein Madchen oder

Weibchen', Op 66. Ravel, arr Wall-

braiques). Chausson, arr York: Le

colibri, Op 2 No 7. Debussy, arr

tions on Mozart's Bei Mannem.

weiche Liebe fuhlen', WoO 46. (R)

10.30 Ulster Orchestra. Conductor

Andrew Mogrefia, Peter Lawson (pi-

Psyche'. Alan Rawsthorne: Piano

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

11.30 Jazz on 3.

(924-946MHz FM)

6.00 News Briefing.

6.05 Sports Desk.

RADIO 4

ano). Hindemith: Overture Cupid and

Concerto No 1 Well: Symphony No 2

fisch: Kaddisch (Deux melodies he-

Grechaninov: Beau soir, Joaquin Nin:

Chants d'Espagne. Beethoven: Varia-

Sinclair, Cathy Sara and Simon

gic to food, and a mysterious

go sauce on the wall, a partner aller-

and Robert Marx.

the Day.
7.25 The Met Opera Quiz. Martin

songwriter (right) recalls some philosopher, formative musical experiences Graham Vick's new production

opera Moses and Aaron is broadcast tonight from the New York Met in Opera on 3 (6.30pm R3). Philip Langridge and John Tomlinson take the leads.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



المكذامن المصل

RADIO 4 LW

Shipping Forecast

(693, 909KHz MW)

6.00 Dirty Tackle.

9.00 Chiles on Seturday.

the National Lottery Draw.

he week's big stories.

CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM)

- 6.00 Sunday Start.

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM)

6.00 Richard Allen. 9.00 Harriet

Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown

with Russ Williams. 2.00 Rock and

Roll Football 5.30 Wheels of Steel

10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 .

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Best on

Record. 2.00 The World Today.

2.30 Agenda, 3.00 The World To-

World Business Review, 3.45 Letter

day. 4.30 Omnibus. 5.00 The World

from America. 4.00 The World To-

Today. 5.30 - 6.00 Women Who

Parenting (4814488), 8.00 Polka Dot

Shorts (1040846), 8.40 Tlny and Crew '98

(1434730), 8.35 Happy Birthday (1038001).

B.25 Babaloos (1439295), B.30 Callou (8700001), B.35 Tiny and Crew (5073407)

8.50 Practical Parenting (7304198). 9.05

Carrit Cook, Worlt Cook (8726049), 9.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (7457469), 10.50

Maury Povich (5355204), 11.00 Living Issues (9742285), 11.30 The Roseanne

Show - Highlights (9743914), 12,00 Enter

tainment News (5731285) 12.30 | A | ew

Omnibus (4785285), 3.00 Film: Beloved

Infidel (1958) (3916240), 5.30 Animal Res-

cue (3025049), 6.00 Filters: For the Love

of Nancy (1994) (1782643). 8.00 Ally

day. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00 Steve Power,

(198kHz LW)

10.00 Late Night Currie.

6.30 Breakfast

12.00 Sportscall

100 Sport on 5

6.06 Six-O-Six.

TLOO Move IL

RADIO 5 LIVE

12.00 - 12.04 News Headines:

11.30 You're Not Singing Any More.

8.00 Dailyn UK. Richard Dallyn with

(198kHz)

6.10 Open Country. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 Today. 9.00 Home Truths 10.00 NEWS: Loose Ends. 11.00 NEWS; Food Programme. 11.30 From Our Own Correspon-

12.00 NEWS; Money Box. 7.55 Moses and Aaron, Act 2.
9.00 Between the Ears. The second of six newly commissioned experi-12.30 The Sunday Format. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.15 Any Questions?. 2.00 NEWS; Any Answers? 0870 Coopers'. By Rod Tinson. With man-

010 0444 2.30 Descendants. 3.00 NEWS; The Saturday Play: Lack of Moral Fibre. 4.00 NEWS; Weekend Woman's

Hour. Carter. Music by Rod Tinson. 9.45 Raphael Walfisch. Cello recital, 5.00 Saturday PM. 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Live from London. 7.00 NEWS; Saturday Review. 7.45 Heavenly Thoughts. 1: Staring into Space', in the first of three pro-grammes, astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell, one of only four female protessors of physics in the country, talks about why she became an astronomer, the excitements of

stargazing, and her groundbreaking discovery of a new type of star known as a pulsar. (A) 6.00 NEWS; The Archive Hour. Charles Dickens, Professor Chris Bigsby examines the changing face of Dickens's universe, probably the most adapted and adaptable writer in the English language. With ex-

tracts from radio, film and musicals. 9.00 NEWS; The Classic Serial: Joseph Andrews. Henry Fielding's comic masterpiece, dramatised by Dominic Power, is a riotous journey through the morals and manners of high and low society. 2: Joseph and his friend Parson Adams are at the mercy of the Tow-Wouses until they can find some money. Meanwhile, Farmy sets out in search of Joseph. ster, and Gabrielle Drake. Director Michael Fox. Dramatised by Dominic Power, Director Michael Fox. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.15 The Moral Maze, Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley,

David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news. 11.00 NEWS; Airs of England. In the second of a four-part series, Richard Victorian English music. Fairies in the Garden'. This week he talks to harpist Elizabeth Jane Baldry who

12.30 Late Story: Painting Juliet. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast.

With Norman Rodway, Matthew Dun-David Starkey, Ian Hargreaves and Coles explores the diverse sounds of

has recreated the fairy music that became the pop music of the day, enjoyed in the parlours of the newly rich middle classes and in the royal court of Queen Victoria herself. 11.30 Parkes and Gardens. (R) 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature: The Way Home. (R) 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News.

Dared to Speak, TALK RADIO 6.00 OK to Talk 6.00 Danny Baker's Morning Edition. 12.00 Tom Watt. 2.00 The SportZone 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Tom Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts, 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight 5.50 - 6.00 Balls on Sunday Psychic, 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

JUST OVER a week ago, I mooted the as slight favourite; but it'll be most unfortunately utterly impracticable solution of a match tournament to solve the current impasse over the world championship(s).

My idea was to include Kasparov, Anand, Shirov and the winner of the next Fide knockout world championship: though I didn't add that if ooe of the latter two won the Fide event - Kasparov undouhtedly won't play - then you could chuck in Kramnik, for example, too.

news from around the UK. Including Less than three weeks after the end of Wijk aan Zee, the heavy 9.00 The Treatment, Stuart Maconie guns are in action again in the anand guests with their own take on nual tournament in Linares in the south of Spain. This splendid event, 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. which starts today and runs till 12 March, is an eight-player double rounder including all of the above apart from Alexei Shirov. There's a good reason for this though, since 6.00 Sarah Lucas, 8.00 Count Senor Rentero, the perennial organdown. #LOO Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read 3.00 Margaret iser, who was unfortunately involved Howard 6.00 Classic FM at the in a bad car crash last year hut is Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at now said to be recovering, was one Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 of the mainstays of Kasparov's now The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Midnight collapsed World Chess Council Music. 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00

> parov us Shirov match. Apart from Kasparov, Anand and Kramnik, there are Ivanchuk, Svidler, Michael Adams, Topalov, and Peter Leko. Basically, with a couple of other exceptions, this is the top of the rating list; and it's reported that Nigel Short is most unlucky in that in the first incorrect version which appeared Leko was rated 2.711: and by the time Leko's rating it had been corrected to 2,694, he'd already received an invitation and accepted it.

(WCC): the organisation that has

signally failed to deliver a Kas

But, for all the accursed politics. Linares should be another won- 13 Rfd1 Bxf3?! derful event. Following his sparkling 14 Bxf3 Rb8 display in Wijk, Kasparov must start 15 e3 Nf6

interesting to see how much, both emotionally and in terms of his opening arsenal, Wijk has taken out of him. Presumably Anand is second, but you also shouldn't discount Kramnik if he gets going. Here is a delightfully clean win

from last year's eveot. In the opening, Black normally plays 10 ... Nc6 en route to b4. The doubled pawns after 12 gxf4 areo't a weakness, since they help to control the ceotre. Svidler tried to equalise simply with 13 ... Bxf3?! but he could never free himself with ...c5 -eg if 15 ...c5? 16 dxc5 Bxc5 17 Bc6

wins - and Kramnik got total

control. Kramnik broke through with the highly energetic 18 e4 and 19 d5! and after the splendid pawn sacrifice 23 Nd4 the knight reached the ideal c6 square effectively ending matters-Svidler couldn't refuse the pawn with 23 ...c5 in view of 24 Nf5.

Svidler tried to bail out with 26 .Rxc6 and 27 ... Qxe5 so that if 28 Rxh4?? Qe5+ hut 28 Bd7! won a further piece.

White: Vladimir Kramnik Black: Peter Svidler Catalan Opening

1 Nf3 Nf6 16 Racl Qd6 2 c4 e6 17 Ne2 3 g3 d5 18 e4! Qd7 4 d4 Be7 19 d5! exd5 5 Bg2 0-0 20 e5 Ne8 6 0-0 dxc4 21 Rxd5 Qh3 7 Qc2 a6 22 Bg2 Qh4 8 Oxc4 b5 23 Nd4! Qxf4 9 Qc2 Bh7 24 Nc6 Bh4 10 Bf4 Nd5 25 Rcd1! Rb6 11 Nc3 Nxf4 26 R5d4 Rxc6 12 exf4 Nd7 27 Bxc6 Qxe5 28 Bd7 Rd8 29 Rxh4 1-0

BRIDGE

SIX-FIVE DISTRIBUTIONS are always exciting and West looked forward to the auction on this deal. Was there a slam on for his side, he speculated, or would he be reduced to an unusual no-trump overcall at some level? He was in for a disappointment the took his harp to the party, but...) for, after a pass by North, his partner opened Three Hearts and South overcalled with Four Spades. (Three no-trumps would have been my nap selection - I would have been prepared to forgo the 100 for honours.)

This was frustrating for West he passed and led a trump against Four Spades. Now declarer was faced with at least four losers. Apparently West held oo hearts to lead and so the king of hearts might be a trick, but there was no entry to dummy. Furthermore, the ace of

clubs seemed sure to be with West. There was, however, the chance of compelling West to give dummy the lead. South drew a secood round of trumps and followed with the king of clubs from hand. West took his ace and cashed the queen but was now in some difficulty. Another club would allow South to discard a diamond and play hearts from the table, so West tried a small diamond. The ten was covered by the queen and ace, but now an-

North **+**42 V6532 **♦**J 10 4 **#**J963 West East **475 108** ♥nooe ♥AQJ9874 ♦K97632 **♦Q**5 **+**AQ1072 **+**84 South ◆AKQJ963 VK 10 **♦** A 8 **4K5**

Game all; dealer North

other diamond finished West. Whatever he led, South was able to discard both of his losing hearts.

Can you come to West's rescue? No. not in the bidding - he could hardly be criticised. But after he had cashed the queen of clubs and had been reduced to leading diamonds, the king would have been a far better proposition than a low one. If declarer ducks, West has a safe diamond exit to South's now bare ace. And if South wins and plays another diamood, it is East who gains the lead and can cash the ace of hearts for the setting trick.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

Young Sherloc. Holmes (1985) (88512). 10.00 The Boy from Mercury (1998) (67952). 12.00 First Do No Harm (1997) (21223). 2.00 Herrist the Spy (1996) BEFURE THE Five Nations Martin Johnson, to be victorious (76543) **4.00** Young Sherlock Polities (1985) (8575) **6.00** The Boy from Mectury (1998) (21372), **7.30** phreview (1597), **8.00** White Man's Burden (1995) (90204), **10.00** began, the plindits were writing off Scotland as near-certainties for the wooden spoon. However, an inspired victory over Wales Conspiracy Theory (1997) (74117310). See Pick of the Day. 12,15 Working Girl (1988) (233860). 2,10 Fear (1996) (124860). 3,50 at Murrayfield a fortnight ago has changed those predictions. 6.00 Swimming with Sharks (1994) Now, today's match - England vs Scotland (1.30pm Sky Sports 2) 7.00 Movie Megic (58865), 7.30 Action Heroes (5480662), 8.15 UK Top Ten - does not look such a foregone (2807240), 6.00 Spiceworld the Movie would still expect England's

on a ground where Scotland have not won since 1983. Since the death of John F Kennedy Americans like nothing

more than a conspiracy theory. This makes a neat starting-point for Conspiracy Theory (10pm Sky Premier), a superior thriller in which paranoid New York conclusion. All the same, you cab driver Mel Gibson (right) becomes enmeshed in a web titanic pack, led by captain of intrigue.

JAMES RAMPTON



tare (6923150). 1.00 Weepons of War (7373957). 2.00 Close. SKY ONE

Lawrence Dallaglio and lock

7.00 What a Mess (30469), 7.30 Street Sharks (42204), 6.00 The Adventures of Sinbad (10827), 9.00 The Simpsons (27846), 9.30 Gerfield and Friends (81778), 10.00 The Best of the Chris Evans Show (48488), 11.00 World Wreating Federation Live Wire (51952). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot (1940) (2669240), 4.30 The Lineup (1958) (4061001), 8.00 Seven Days in May (1964) Gun (44001). 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman (60049). 2.00 Americals Dumbest Criminals (2894), 2,30 America's Dumbest Criminals (6204), 3,00 Guilty! (73049). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (52556). 8.00 Star Trek: Voyand Dust (1963) (62730599), 3.40 The Directors (9488421), 4.40 The Black Room ager (3001). 6.00 Xens - Warrior Princess 5). 7.00 VIP (87730). 6.00 JAG (55038), **6.00 Flim:** Sky One Spe Feeture: Brubaker (1980) (384933), 1L30 (1959) (14671372). 8.10 The Pope Must Die Beat the Crusher (59630). 12.30 Showbiz Weekly (48131). 1.00 The Big Essy (99063). 2.00 Fire (68957). 3.00 - 6.00 Long Play (5453063).

62), 7.00 Budweiser Bas

(1991) (88099952). 9.45 Pact (5479895). 10.00 Bink (1994) (6477681). 11.45 Ages of Lulu (1990) (3368001). 1.20 Don't Look Now (1973) (6623605). 3.10 - 6.00 SKY SPORTS 1 rcelona (1994) (36697060). 6.00 Hold the Back Page (32914). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (5196). 8.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (99662). 8.30 Racing News (98933). 6.00 The Rugby Club (88681). DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Fightpath (8309136). 5.00 Century of Warfare (4357914). 6.00 The Century of Warfare (2517812). 7.00 Super Struc-10.00 World Tenpin Bowling Masters tures (6928681), 8.00 Chasers of Toma-(80488), 11.00 Max Power (93952), 12.00 Gilette Soccer Saturday (5933117), 5.30 do Alley (6904001). 9.00 Miami Swat (8924865). 10.00 Forensic Detectives Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (6927952). **11.00** Century of Warfare

(85933). 6.00 Saturday Fight Night (925933), **1L30** Europeen Tour Golf (696933), **2.30** Ford Golf USA - Nessan Open (1887112). 5.30 - 6.00 Moto-plus

SKY SPORTS 2 8.00 Wetersports World (2858778), 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (5083571), 7.30 Rec-ing News (3043056), 8.00 Soccer AM (2157204). 12.00 Motorcycling (3678407). 1.00 Extreme Sailing (#48812), 1.30 International Rugby Union England vs Scot temporal Huggy unon Engano vs scot-tand (8656372). See Pick of the Day. 5.00 European Tour Golf (1652285). 8.00 Ford Golf USA - Nissan Open (1676865). 11.00 Hugby Union Updata (3969827). 12.30 Besketball Live (3957228). 2.30 Saturday Fight Night (1475763). 5.00 - 6.00 Spansh Football (1929570).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 European Tour Golf (82622135). 1.30 Moto-pius (87/43049). 2.00 Snook-er (38187204). 5.00 Moto-pius (87/858489). 5.30 Extreme Saling (87827778), 6.00 Max Power (87729489), 7.00 Snooker (55190240), 10.00 Spenish Football 28184891, 11.00 Moto-plus (17105594). 11.30 Extreme Saling (96231858). 12.00

7.30 YOZ Mag - Youth Only Zone (84846), 8.30 Toboggaring (21681), 9.30 Nordic Sking (94001), 11.30 Toboggaring (61846), 12.30 Nordic Sking (68391).

(93827). 4.00 Swimming (73402). 5.00 Tennis (58843), **6.30** Tennis (58339), **8.00** Sumo (23556), **6.00** Speed Sketing (40195020). 11.15 Boxing (834575). 12.15 Darts (3296841), 1400 Closs.

On 10127 7.00 Angels (9492196), 7.30 Neighbours Omnibus (74930117), 9.25 Delias Omnibus (81533556), 12.50 EastEnders Omnibus (17108845), 3.00 The Ell Omnibus (39269952), 5.35 Film: Battlestar Galac-tica (1979) (63117662), 6.00 Saturday Night Comedy: What a Carry Onl (8569285), 8.25 Saturday North Comedy: Hearry Emileid and Churns (5863339), 945 Saturday Night Comedy: The Thin Blue Line (8277846), 9.55 Saturday Night Cornedy: Red Dwarf V (2443440), 10.35 Saturday Night Cornedy: Monty Pythonis Plying Circus (2753136), 1115 Saturday Night Comedy: Live at Jongleurs (7085391). 11.50 Films Papilion (1973) (78794223), 3L00 -. 7.00 Shopping with

Screenshop (6167044). 6.00 Tiry and Crew (37509228), 6.20 Johnson and Friends (83416594). 6.30 Greedyseuns and the Gang (1259768f). 6.40 Thry Tales (8494498), 6.45 Philbert the Frog (84943407), 6.50 Polks Dot Shorts (84924372), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5883372), 7,05 10 plus 2 (54/4575). 7,20 Bedtime Stories (5603136), 7,25 Babeloos (5602407). 7.30 Callou (1672138). 7.35 Bug Alert (7478469). 7.55 Practical

McSeal (1783372). 6.00 Jerry Springer Double Bill (1793759). 11.00 Michael Cole (7649440), 12.00 Close. TNT 9.00 Gettysburg (1993) (67340579). 11.30 Angels with Dirty Faces (1938) (58338407), 1.30 Torpedo Run (1958) 21823131). 3.45 Telefon (1977) (42573792). 5.00 Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Jerny (1682). 7.30 Grace under Fire (4001). 6.00 Elen (4010). 5.30 Newsradio 181171, 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey 73420). 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (45339), **10.00** Frasier (91020), **10.30** Cheers (77440), **11.00** Seinfeld (19665). **11.30** The Larry Senders Show (54575). **12.00** Duckman (18402). **12.30** We Know Where You Live (85781), 1.00 Comedy Store (51641), 1.30 Ctub Class (98860), 2.00 Dr Katz (91516), 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (56763), 3.00 Nightstand (71505). 3.30 Abbott & Costalo (94505). 4.DD Closa

GRANADA PLUS 6.00 Jason King (6690952), 7.00 Bootsis and Snudge (8807001), 7.30 That's My Boy (9828136), 8.00 Watching (692 8.30 No Strings (1879630), 9.00 Mission Impossible (5389049), 10.00 The Persuaders (8615020), 11.00 Man in a Sultcase (8602556), 12-00 Fiddlers Three (3774468), **12.30** Emmerdal 3.00 Bonanza (4331681). 4.00 The High Chaparral (4327488). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (5591933), **5.00** The Persuaders (7427858), **7.00** Mession: Impossible 4052399). 6.00 The Return of Sherlock Holmes (8757907), 9.00 An Audience With Dame Edna (8852551). 10.00 Rob-bie Coltrane Special (9907240). 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors until 200em

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 LONDON except: 4.40 Final Score (7315488). 5.00 Northern Ireland Results (8410643). 5.20 Final Score (8430407), 5.50 Newstine (207759).

MANDARM 12.00 The Century of War-

BBC1 SCOTLAND Afternoon Sportscene (3242196), 5.45 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (6768440), 5.50 Reporting Scotland (207759), 10.40 Sportscene - Match of the Day (8389391).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 LONDON except: 4.40 Final Score (732436), 4.55 Wales on Sabriday (2887778), 5.50 Wales Today

ANGLIA
As LWT accept: 12.30 Pirate TV
(6/18/2). 1.05 Angia News and Weather
(5/2805010). 2.20 Champions of the
Puture (6/2837020). 2.50 Film: The Tinal
of the Incredible Hulk, Feature-length
outing for the scientist whose after ego is
a giganite green monster. Arrested after a
shooting incident, David Banner bettles to
clear his name, calling on his own
extractinary powers and those of a blind
lawyer who also has a dual incamption
as the superheroic Deredevil. Bill Bibby,
Lou Ferrigno star (7/1859469). 5.40 Angia ANG! IA

News and Sport (507020), 8.40 ITN News; Weekend Weather (592204), 1.05 The Jerry Springer Show (1895889), 1.45 Film: Murder 101. Thriller in which a college professor delivers a lecture to his students on how to commit the confere murder. The repercussions of his lesson murdor. The repercusaries in this associate greater than he could ever have imagined the finde himself framed as the orime suspect in a very similar crime. Plence Broenen stars. (157229). 3.20 Box Office America (80001228). 3.45 World Football (88228). 4.45 CD UK (4512402). 5.10 ITV Nightscreen (4800995).

CENTRAL As LWT excepts 12.30 Premiere (91812), 1.05 Central News and Westher (52605010), 2.20 Film: Merooned (62314594) 5.40 Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (507020). 8.40 ITN News; National Lottery Update; Weather (582204). 4.40 Joblinder (2015179). 5.00 Spotlight Asia (25995).

HTV WALES As LWT except: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (91812). 1.00 ITN News Headines; National Weather (47750169). 1.05 HTV Naws (52605010). 2.20 Pirate TV (52637020). 2.50 Airwolf (2151759). 3.40 Team Kriight Fider

(2104843). 5.40 HTV Wales News and Sport (507020): 1.05 The Jerry Springer Show (1995989): 1.45 Firm: Murder 101 (157226): 3.20 Box Office America (80001226): 3.45 World Football (98228). 4.45 CD UK (4512402), 5.10 ITV Nightscreen (4800995).

HTY WEST As HTV Wales except: 12.30 Sportsweek (\$1812): 1.00 ITN News; Weether (47750189): 2.20 Movies, Gamz and Victors (\$2837020): 2.50 Pirate TV (5963692), 3.20 Dirosaurs (5806391). 3.40 HTV West News and Sport (507020), 8.40 ITN News Headines; MERIDIAN

Marianan An LWT except: 12.30 Pler Pressure (9:312), 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (5:205010), 2.20 Videotech Brit Winners Special (6:2637020), 2.50 Film: Cheaper by the Dozen. An efficiency expert and his wife must run their lives with methematical precision in order to look after their twelve children. This fact-based comedy highlights many family edventures and heartwarming incidents. Clifton Wabb, Myrma Loy stat. (7859489). 5.40 Meridan News and Weather (507020). 8.40 News; Weather (592204).

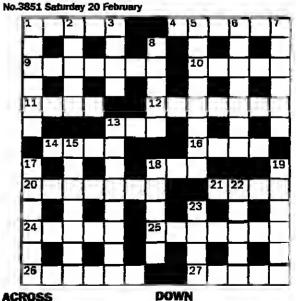
1.05 The Jerry Springer Show (1895889) 1.45 Film: Murder 101 (157229) 3.20 Box Office America (80001226), 3.45 World Footbell (98226), 4.45 CD UK (4512402), 5.10 ITV Nightscreen (4800995).

WESTCOUNTRY
As LWT except: 12.30 Movies,
Games and Videos (91812), 1.05
Westcountry News (92805010), 2.20
Film: Scaramouche (92314594), 5.40 Firm: Scaramouche (823/4594), 3-40
Westcountry News (507020), 8-40 TTN
News; Weekend Weather (582204), 1-05
The Jerry Springer Show (1895889), 1-45
Firm: Murder 101 (157229), 3-20 Box
Office America (80001229), 3-45
World
Football (98229), 4-15 CD UK (4512402),
5-51 CM (4512402) 5.30 (TV Nightscreen (4800995). YORKSHIRE

As LWT except: 12.30 Dinosaus (91812). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (\$2605010), 5.40 Calendar News and Weather (296643). 5.45 Goals Extra (\$22339). 8.40 News; Weather (\$92204). TYNE TEES As Yerkshire except: 1.05 North East News and Wasther (52605010), 5.40 North East News and Wasther (296643), 5.45 Full Time (522339),

As Channel 4 excepts 1.00 Film: The Mark of Zorro (\$2454407), 2.20 Rygbi: Pencampwriseth y Pum Gwlad 1999 (78304933), 4.55 Newyddion (84865049), 5.15 Film: Gun Pury, Wild st adventure about a rancher's search for a ruthless and violent outlaw who has ischapped his flances, Johing forces with the outlaw's embittered expertner, the rancher sets off in pursuit. He soon finds himself covering most of Arizona. (43545391). 6.45 Marci Gras (3512310). (4354331). 4.45 Martis Gras (3512310). 7.45 Newyodion a Chwarason (99994778). 8.00 Hywel y Noson Lawen (9366533). 9.00 O Flaan Dy Lygald (4250889). 10.00 The Last Days of the Board (46010486). 11.00 Boogle Nights in Suburbia (22694952). 12.05 Don't Look New (9665524). 200 Elem Da Dook Now (96955624). 12.20 Film: Evil Dead E. Gross comic horror tale about a couple who accidentally summon up an evil force when they venture to a remete log cabin in the woods. Forced to decapitate his possessed grifflend, the man finds his escape blocked and he must battle not only the evil force and a killer hand, but his sweethearts united byte or well. his sweetheart's undead body as well (45469402). 1.55 Pirm: Zombie Plesh Eaters (37725698), 3.55 4 Later; Hill Street Blues (10255179). 4.45 Close.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Newspapers (5) Each (6) Normal (7)

10 Principal (5) 11 Shopping precinct (4) 12 Fruit (7) 13 Frozen water (3) 14 Surface film on liquid (4) 16 Second-hand (4)

18 Seed (3) 20 Smack (7) 21 Comfort (4) 24 Have being (5) 25 Slaughter (7) 26 Singing voice (6) 27 Light-headed (5)

DOWN Central American country (6) Praise (5) Painful (4) Tonic (4-2-2) Lover of good food and wine (7) Decadent (6) Quench (5) Undying (8) 15 Communioo cup (7) 17 Result (6) 18 Cost (5) 19 Salad plant (6) 22 Grant (5) 23 Self-righteous individual

Selution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 7 Sirens, 8 Esther (Cirencester). 10 Lunatic. 11 Alarm. 12 Site, 13 Slack. 17 Stavs. 18 Otto, 22 Larch. 23 Academy, 24 Banana, 25 Cuckoo. DOWN: 1 Useless. 2 Granite. 3 Unite, 4 Askance, 5 Phial. 6 Crime. 9 Scallywag, 14 Etching, 15 Streaky, 16 Polygon, 19 Globe, 20 Grand, 21 Gar

TELEVISION REVIEW REES



charge of cannibalism.

This being a Preoch vehicle, there was also e rich selection of jokes about fatness end sweetness. After she killed the plumbor, French's character consoled herself by downing the character consoled herself by downing the consoled helf a chocolate cake. It might os well have been called "Sex end Chocolate", but French hes olready starred in a (uselces) drama going by the seme name. Not that she's info eterrotyping french's desires burst, causing the death by squashing of the unfortunate plumber. He was thrown into the freezer, which was stolen by the butcher—who was then imprisoned on a charge of cambalism.

100 E S

BBC1

7.00 The Munste (3969407).

7.30 Children's 8BC: Firsman Sem (R) (6397489). 7.40 Little Monsters (S) (6223935). 7.50 The incredible Hulk (R) (T) (9694653). 8.15 Hero Turtles - the Next Mutation (S) (2856914). 8.35 The Firitetones (R) (S) (9052759). 9.00 Live end Kicking (S) (63055914).

12.16 Grandstend (8217198), 12.20 Footbell Focus (5591862), 1.35 Racing from Ascot (94859846), 1.30 Athletics (47631839), 1.45 Racing from Ascot (47629594), 2.00 Rugby Union (82993952), 2.15 Racing from Ascot (92989759), 2.35 Around the Grounds (7016575), 2.45 Rugby Union: Weiles vs Ireland – Live coverage from Wembley (Rick-off 3pm) (244778), 3.45 Football Half-Timss (2704778), 3.55 Rugby Union: Second helt coverage of Walse ve Ireland (3659575), 4.40 Final Score (4162204). 12:10 News! Weether (T) (82:8827)

5.40 News; Weather (T) (598372). 5.50 Regionel News and Weather (207759).

5.55 Big Greek. You've been encokered with Jim Davidson and his welstcoated chums. The guest ball-potters are Jonathen Birch and Jimmy Michie (5) (T) (626594).

B.25 Det Your Act Together. Ronan Keeting gives enother peir of pop wennabee a maksover. This wask's hopefuls are Sebastien Rogers (my advica would be to change the neme) and Wend! Deja! (S) (T) (592339).

10

Noel's House Perty (S) (922827).

7.40 The Netional Lottery Oraw. The big-money balle, with special guesta The Corrs, Cher and Boyzons. Now that's just showing off (S) (T) (585730).

8.05 Casuelty. There are some difficult decisions to be made in A&E following a tesr-gassing and an outbreak of gang violence. Josh, mesnwhile, bonde with e schizophrenic (S) (T) (836049).

8.55 Sunburn. The last tranche of this sage about the lives and loves of British holiday reps in Cyprus. Nickl must choose between Ylannis and Steve. Will Greg end Maria ever be reconciled? And will BBC1 be making enother series? You betcha (S) (T) (281778).

9.50 Kiss Me Kets. Office sitcom. Kate's old friand turns up with an offer she may not be able to refuse – but what would life without Kets be like for everyone else? (A) (S) (T) (801827).

10.35 Match of the Day. Coventry City vs Manchester United is the main event, plus e comprehensive round-up of the rest of the Premiership action. Analysis from Alan Hansen end Mark Lawrenson (S) (T) (8382486). 10-20 News| Weather (T) (645469).

I O

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|EFFERSO

PARIS

11.45 IIIM Stephen King's Sometimes They Come Back (Tom McLoughlin 1991 US). Yeah, but most viewers won't be returning to this humdrum "shocker" from the one-men horror factory. Tim Metheson plays a high-school teacher who returns to the home town where he witnessed his brother's murder 27 yeers previously (S) (T) (776469).

1.55 Joins B&C Newe 24 (81502841). To 6.40am. 1.20 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (8365063).

PROFILE OF THE DAY

ambassador to France in the 1780's. Nick Noite, Greta Scacchi and Gwyneth Paltrow head the all-star cast.

Tonight at 10.05pm

MAN IN THE BAND (9:55pm BBC2) Nearly 20 years after his does in 1967, pullifical folk singer Woody Guthrie's daughter. Nova, discovered hundreds of lyrics written by her father that had never become sangs. She showed them to Essex troubadour Billy Bragg (right) – and the resulting collaboration with US country rockers Wilco less been turned into an album, Mermaid Avenue. All of which brings us to Kim Hapkins's film, which follows Bragg as he tours Guthrie's old heunts (the Texas Panharulle, file orange groves of Celifarnie, Greenwich Village) in search of the man who inspired both the downwodden out artists such as Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen.

ARENA

Jefferson's period of service as American

James Ivory's beautifully acted and stunningly shot account of Thomas

ITM Mogembo (John Ford 1953 US). Lusty remake of Red Dust, with Clark Gebie raprising his African geme-hunter role from 21 yeers earlier, while Ava Gardner (In the old Jean Harlow role) and Grace Kelly (the old Mary Asior role) bitch at each other with gueto (435643).

2.15 [1][1] Bhoweni Junction (George Cukor 1956 UK).

Ava Gardnar again – this time as an Angio-Indian woman thought unsultable for British colonel Stawerf Granger at the time of the 1947 Partition (T) (685646).

4.00 Biteeize Britein (S) (T) (4728117). **4.10** One Man and His Dog (S) (6870372). **4.40** Space 1999 (9968952).

8.30 TOTP 2. With The Beat, Howerd Jones, Elide Brooks, the Bey City Rollers and Dennis Weterman (S) (278827).

7.55 Whet the Pepers Sey. Wilh Peter Bradahaw of London's Evening Standard (5) (743881).

B.05 The Cold Wan. "Rad Spring – the Sixtles". After Germeine Greer's tilm last weak ebout America in the 1960s, the focus shifts to Russia and Eastern Europe. In the USSR, datance expenditure crippled economic growth, while in eastern Europe, danisis of fraedom and of incentive stilled ambition and achievement (929391).

8.55 INITITY Men in the Send. Billy Bregg goss in search of inspirational American folk singer. Woody Guthris. See Profile of the Day, below (S) (T) (7303001):

11.25 [6]:0[F3] All the Precident's Men (Alan J Pakula 1976 US). Lendmerk film about the Washington Post's Investigation into the Watsrgata conspirecy. Sea Film of the Day, balow (T) (67951730).

1.40 IIIM The Window (Ted Tetzleif 1949 US). Oscarwinning nail-biter about a boy (played by Bobby Driscoll) who cries wolf too oftan and isn't balleved whan he witnessee a murder. Based on a story by Cornel Woolrich, who also inspired Hitchcock's aimiler Rear Window (Then Weatherview) (3555518). To 2.55am.

BBC2

6.10 Open University: No Ley-Bye et 38,000 Feet (1471594), B.35 Cyberwar (9381198), 7.05 Four Towns and a Circus (886856), 7.30 The Sonnst (T) (80468), 8.00 Veekend 24 (S) (76469), 9.00 Perconal Passions (S) (4523285), 8.15 Open Saturday (S) (8683407), 10.35 (Cyber Art – in Conversation (S) (3398001), 10.40 See Hasri (S) (9069594), 11.25 House on the Waterfall (R) (1086630), 11.50 Food and Drink (S) (T) (6935865).

6.15 Scrutiny. Mixad-rece Lebour MP Cona King goes on epersonal journey of discovery when she visita the Deep South in the USA. She finds disturbing parallels between 1950s America and her constituency in east London todey (S) (T) (162223).

740 Correspondent. Mett Fisi in Sri Lanka reports on the two-year-old child who is seld to be the raincametion of former President Premadass. Plus Julie Filmt on human rights abussa in Gualemaia (S) (T) (274627).

8.55 inepector Morse. "Promised Lend". This full-isngth mystery was acripted by Julien Mitchell and afforded John Thaw, Kevin Whatsley and crew a spot of foreign travel. Morse and Lewis help to hunt down a supergress who has legged it to Australia (R) (S) (T) (81259038).

8.28 It I Ruled the World. This week's guests ara Griff Rhys Jones and Wilt Self (S) (T) (554285).

Dentine 1991 US). Multi-Oscar-winning Thomes Harris adeptation with Anthony Hopkins enjoying himself es centibelistic Dr Hannibel Lecter, and Jodle Foster giving e good performance as FBI de-briefer Clarice Sterling. Not as scary as Michael Mannis 1988 film Manhunter, but not one to watch alone, alther (S) (76785372).

1.05 The Jerry Springer Show (R) (S) (T) (6948614).
2.30 Beywatch Nighta (S) (3477792).
3.20 Box Ottice America (R) (55242957).
3.40 World Football (40931516).
4.10 CD UK (S) (2015179).
5.00 ITV Nightscreen (25995).
5.30 ITN Morning News (53537).
To 6am.

8.55 News end Sport| Waether (T) (701285).

8.40 ITN News; Weether; Lottery Result (1) (592204). 5.10 Family Fortunse. The Dadds femily from North Devon play the Madley family from Temworth. Les Dannis holds the question cerds (S) (T) (359391).

8.55 Yes, Prime Minister. Mi5 drops a bombshsii – the pepers of a recently daceasad head of Mi5 show that he was, et one stage, apying for Russia (R) (S) (695730).

10.55

6.00 DMTV (2816466)

11.30 CD UK (S) (87846). 12.30 The Food Factory (9/8/12). 1.00 ITN News; Waather (T) (47750/69). 1.05 London Weekend Todey (T) (528050/10). 1.10 On the Ball (T) (9680846). 1.48 NBA 99 (T) (6337952).

2.20 IIII to Like Flint (Gordon Dougles 1967 US).
Storry-faced Jemes Coburn returne in this sequel to the James Bond spoof Our Men Filmt. He's in the Virgin islends preventing a bevy of beautiful bikini-clad women from taking over the world. Why? (62314594).

4.30 Rugby 88: England ve Sootland. Extended highlights only. For live coverage see Sky Sports 2. Analysis here is from Phil de Glanville and François Plensar (T) (9601914).

5.55 ITN Newej Sporte Resultej Weather (502575).

6.10 Don't Try Thie et Home! Davina McCall and more puntere are persuaded to do scary things. A South African stuntmen attempts a balloon-to-balloon sky dive and an American eats lightbulba (S) (T) (163827).

te. How did Franceaca and Merk get on in und Andy and Netalle fare in Brugea? Not very wise bet (S) (T) (811372).

8.00 (P!(I)(P) The Last Deys of the Soard.
Chennel 4's Censored weekend of programmes bagins with e look et the work of the British Board of Film Clessification. See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (4285).

documentery explores the pornogrephy trade in Britain – including a duo who travel around the suburbs filming women in their own homes, and e porn exporter who does a profilable line in time teaturing himself "picking up" girl-next-door types, Leading men mastly, however, tend to come from ebroad as Brillish men don't parlorm thet woll in front of tho cemero (T) (3079440).

11.50 EILL Evil Oead II (Sain Raimi 1987 US), Gross-out sequel to Roimi's much-tambasted 1982 horror movie, with a couple ill-advisedly going to a remute cabin for a romantic weekend (T) (799310). 11.05 Sex end the City (T) (579335).
11.35 Oon't Look Now. Writor Aminatta Forns ergues in fevour of some forms of censorship (T) (748265).

1.25 [3][[]] Zombia Fiash Esters (Lucio Fulci 1979 It).
Grussoma pulp zombia yarn showing as pert of the
Censored weeksnd (755624). To 3sm.

Channel 4

hannel

S

9.28 SMTV Live. B*Witched, The Vengsboys and Hepburn are Ant and Decb guesta (S) (34638846).

58 Seeeme Street (R) (3322391), 7.00 T4: Bush Tales (R) (396310), 7.05 A 80x Full of Storles (R) (S) (8884778), 7.20 Animal Alphebet (R) (3944196), 7.30 Plppl Longstocking (S) (T) (83914), 8.00 T4: Trensworld Sport (R) (94865), 8.00 Morning Line (S) (97391), 10.00 Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (98198), 11.00 Gezzetta Football Italis (R) (T) (60402), 12.00 Boerdstupid (74730), 12.30 High 5 (R) (2363001).

.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (9663643). 8.30 Havekazoo (R) (8329594). 7.00 5 News end Sport (6647339). 7.30 Milkshakel (S) (193533). 7.35 Wimzle's House (R) (S) (3882865). 8.00 Lassle (R) (S) (4675339). 8.30 Wishborne (R) (S) (4687310). 9.00 Land of the Lost (R) (S) (468662). 9.30 Kablami (R) (S) (9686566). 10.00 Loggerheads (R) (8310846). 10.30 The Wonder Years (4854846). 11.00 The Pepsi Chert (R) (S) (T) (2696914). 11.30 Foofy Shorta (S) (42938198). 11.45 Severly Hills, 90210 (R) (S) (T) (777397). 12.40 Singled Out (R) (S) (48122759). 1.10 Bang Liberty (R) (S) (8918223). 1.35 RAD (23009894). 1.50 5 News (S) (T) (18897407).

2.25 1.05 1117 Gun Fury (Reoul Walsh 1953 US). Rock Hudson's gotta do what a man's gotta do when his flancée, Donne Reed, is kidnapped by a superbly villainous lot led by Phil Carey (whose heevies include a young Lee Mervin) (T) (2463223).

Channel 4 Recing trom Newcestle end Werwick. Alastair Down end Lesley Grahem present the 2.45, 3.20 and 3.50pm races from Newcastle end the 3.05, 4.10 and 4.40pm from Werwick (28132310).

3.30 Sunset 8each Omnibue. All the week's daytima scep madness in full (do you have the strength?). This main storyline involves AJ and Francesca discovering a dead body. Probably the drama coach's given what passes for acting around here (R) (S) (T) (27384399).

Sportsweek on 8. Gsi McKenna introduces the usual hotch potch of ice hockey, motorcycle supercross and Arganithian soccar (S) (1496310).

5.55 5 News end Sport (S) (T) (1327448).

Nercules: the Legendery Journeye. Xana sets out to kill Hercules to enable her to secure compilete control of the region of Arcadie, you'll be horrified to learn (8) (8454533).

8.40 London Weekend Tonight (T) (507020). 5.05

8.30 Channel 4 News; Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Seturdey's sparting news (T) Brookeide Dittnibus. All last week's Mersey grief in tull – trom Tim ettempting to convince DS Rose of his innocence to Niemh's little secret coming out (R) (S) (T) (5896827).

7.00 Right to Reply. Roger Solton filters viswers' grumbles (1) (8776).

8.55 Fifty Degrees of Fever. Highlights of the past 50 episodes of Night Fever, the celebrily karaoke show presented by Suggs (S) (9196391).

7.30 The Spying Dame. The epies take to the skies in this wesk's sites of sepionage history, which recounts the development of apy satellites and of the SR-71 Blackbird eircraft (S) (T) (117).

6.00 The Storm. Documentary (first shown in the To the Ends of the Earth series) following the so-called "etorm of the century", which began etter three weather fronts collided off the set coast of Americs. It unlesshed 100-mile-an-hour winde end waves the size of 10-storey buildings – devastating the coastline neer Boston (R)

8.05

C-16 FBI. Ho-hum American drama series sboul a Los Angsles-based FBI unit. The pressure builds as Olansky and his team continue to hunt for clues to the whereabouts of a kidnapped boy (R) (S) (4844952).

7.45 B News end Sport (S) (T) (6787848)

9.00 no conundrum - you surely have better things to do with your Saturday night than silow this jew-achingly bad thriller into your homes. All right, if you instat. Michael Behn and Marg Heigenbarger ere cop pertners being targeted by a gang boss who blames them for the death of his son. A few Iwists here and there, but basically etraight to video. Strictly far those who think that Michael Biehn is a bit of elf right (S) (T) (98309407).

Western filmed in Israel with Loo Van Cleef as the idomicel brother of a murdered priest come to avenge his sibling. Everyone gets very exclined because filey Ihink he's iho priest come book from the dead (4770517).

12.40 [] A Oeadly Buelnees (John Korty 1986 US).
Alst. Arkin and Armand Assonte in a toxic-wasta thriller which doesn't deservo its cest (2310985). 2.30 [3][M] Rad Light (Roy Del Ruth 1849 US). George Raf i hunts the killers of his ex-Army chaptain brother (52268082). To 350am.

TELEVISION CHAIRE BY GERNAU GILBERT





ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN (125pm 8BC2, ngh)
Presumably the BBC's slab of binjeachment taplcality lius been somewhat scuppicited by Bill Clinton's lafest escape – although it has taken on another kind of frisson with the news of the death of Nixon's advisor, John Exilchunan. Alan J Pakula had already essayed the American political conspiracy theory in his 1974 The Punillar View, and was primed and waiting when Watergate came along. Dustin Hoffman and Rohert Redfard are the Washington Post journalists Carl Bernstein and Both Woodward, and the film is a winning combination of political thriller, film noir and buddy-buddy picture.



DOCUMENTARY OF T HE DAY

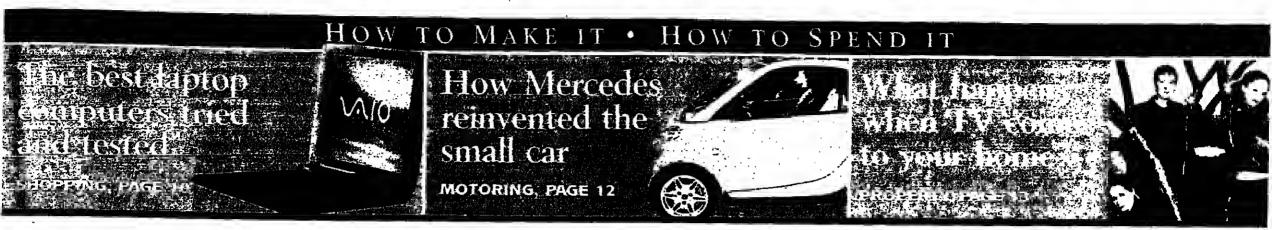
THE LAST DAYS OF THE BOARO (9pm C4 nights of programmes on Channel 4 looking at a Claire Lasko's film investigates the workings o Board of Film Classification. Made as the leger Ferman — who for the past 20 years has hed the what is released on film or video — insde way for Andreas Whittam-Smith (right), Lasko follows Examiners t*We start the day with some porn* Whittam-Smith's first day on the job. "t remem (9pm C4) Starting two king at censorshin, ridings of the British he legendary James hed the lest sey on e wey for his successor follows the work of the ne porn") and hears of remember seeing It was a completc tese things."

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'ndepen-

YOUR MONEY

*THE INDEPENDENT



How low could they go?

If loans seem cheap right now, you just wait. By Teresa Hunter

A FIRE sale seems to be blazing on the personal loans front, with Egg cutting its interest rate further this week. But borrowers would do well to study the European Parliament, whose condetails of the latest bargain basement offers, because these sexy rates are not always what they seem.

Unsecured loans are a popular way of paying for a new car, home improvements, holidays or weddings, because the monthly repayment is fixed at the outset, making budgeting easy. Traditionally they were more expen-Egg, Northern Rock and the Woolwich, plus intense competition from other lenders, has pushed prices down.

insurance policy, which pushes up the fusing for customers. monthly cost sharply. If borrowers dehigher rate of interest.

Northern Rock, which has a headannual interest of 12.3 per cent to customers who do not wish to buy the insurance. First Direct and Marks & Spencer also hike their rates unless you opt in. Even Alliance & Leicester has a similar dual-interest on its top tier for loans of more than £10,000.

This practice has been criticised as "fundamentally wrong" by the chief consumer watchdog, the Office of Fair Trading, which believes that the cost of compulsory insurance should be included in the APR calculation, so that borrowers can easily compare the true price of a loan. An OFT spokesman said: "If an interest policy is mandatory, then we believe it is an essential part of the agreement, and the cost should be reflected in the headline APR rate. Not to do so, in our NatWest are all still charging an APR ing manager at Egg, denies there is a "fire sale" taking place. "It's not that view, is fundamentally wrong. Where

the insurance is not mandatory, then that is a different situation."

This view coincides with that of the sumer credit directive is likely to force insurance costs to be included in APRs, when it comes into force later this year. But the regulations as they exist at present are not clear, and the Department of Trade and Industry is consulting over how best to implement the EU directive.

To be fair, some of the lenders themsive than an overdraft, but in recent selves are unhappy with the current months a flurry of new-style loans from confusion. A spokesman for First Direct, which slices 2 per cent off its APRs for customers who take out the insurance, said: "We would welcome But borrowers should beware, be-some clarification. The convention cause some of the cheapest deals among lenders has been not to include around are conditional on buying an insurance in the APRs, even when often expensive payment-protection they are obligatory, but this can be con-

Until then customers should treat cline this cover, then they must pay a APRs with caution. Although Northern Rock's 9.5 APR looks like the cheapest around for a £5,000 loan line-grabbing annual percentage rate over three years it actually costs (APR) of 9.5, charges a much higher more than Clydesdale Bank's loan which has a headline APR of 12.8, because Northern Rock's insurance is more expensive. A customer would pay £181.88 monthly with Clydesdale, compared with £182.37 at Northern Rock, which makes the former near-

ly £18 cheaper, despite a higher APR. Lombard Direct is another lender causing eyebrows to raise. It advertises a league-table-topping headline rate of 11.9 APR, but this is only available to customers with gold-star credit ratings. Customers are assessed individually and given their own APR. depending on their previous debt-revment record and where they live.

But the really bad boys of the personal-loan field are the main High of around 20 per cent on some of their we new lenders are not making



UNSEC	URED LOANS		-0.5
WITH INSURANCE ES.00	0 over 3 years		
lender .	phone	APR	. monthly paymet
Northern Rock	0345 421421	9.5	+ 182.37
Phone A Loan (Yorkshire Bank)	0800 1386898	11.9	183.40
Direct Line	01a1 680 9965	12.2	182.34
Clydesdale	0800 240024	12.8	181,88
Nationwide BS	0500302013	12.a	183195
Liverpool Victoria	0800 134134	13.3	183.7a
NO INSURANCE			
Lombard Direct	0800'21500	11.9	164.39
Phone a Loan	0600 1386898	11.9	164.61
Tesco	0845 6006016	. 12	164.81
Direct Line	01a1 680 9966	12.2	165.22
Capital One Direct	0800 216252	12.3	165.25
Northern Rock	0345 421421	12.3	165.44

unsecured loans, even though base lending rates have spiralled downwards to 5.5 per cent, giving them a

profit margin of 15 percentage points.

Andy Thompson, unsecured lending manager at Egg, denies there is Egg this week trimmed its loan rates further on the upper tiers. Borrowers can now fix their repayments at 13.4 APR on loans between £2,500 and £4,999, 11.9 APR on sums between £5,000 and £9,999 and 10.2 APR on amounts above £10,000.

Mirror Syndication Int.

He argues that banks are now able to offer personal loans more cheaply because of the improvement in credit-rating information. This has made the business so attractive that lenders have been busy designing loans to capture the public's imagination. Unlike traditional packages, Egg allows the debt to be repaid early without penalties, and customers can take repayment holidays as well.

Northern Rock's new Together loan allows customers to borrow up to 95 per cent of the value of their home at a 6.7 APR (the debt is secured). Customers can then borrow an additional 30 per cent of their home's worth. And the Woolwich will allow you to extend your flexible mortgage to raise funds at a two-year fix of 5.75 per cent.

BARGAIN HUNTER



Property of the week

It needs total redecoration and the grounds are overgrown, but on the other hand, £240,000 isn't that much to pay for a seven-bedroom Georgian house with an indoor pool in its 52ft conservatory. The same amount would barely buy a second-floor flat in Notting Hill. Royston House in North Walsham, Norfolk, stands in four acres and has a number of outbuildings including a drive-through double-length garage with automatic doors at each end. There's a large reception hall, 17ft. drawing room with white-grain marble fire surround. family room, formal dining room and a 21ft dining kitchen. One of the bedrooms has a verandah with steps leading down to the courtyard. The grounds include an orchard, a pond with waterfall and a large greenhouse in need of repair. Details from Brown & Co, 01603 767606.

ROSALIND RUSSELL

Car of the Week

The UK's largest car manufacturer, London Taxis International aside, is Blackpool's very own TVR. Their combination of handsome lightweight glassfibre bodies and powerful engines has been a recipe for success. Not that long ago though they stumbled from one financial crisis to another over three eventful decades. A remnant of the time that wedge-shaped sports cars powered by Ford Granada engines ruled the earth can be found in Brundle's (01553 811811) showroom, near King's Lynn. This TVR Tasmin (named after the owner's ex-girlfriend) has covered just 6,800 miles, is automatic and open-topped. The Eighties are back, apparently, and this Seventies throwback bought from the family firm of ex-Formula One driver and current expert commentator Martin would make the perfect collector's item at just £8,950.

JAMES RUPPERT

Deal of the Week IF YOU are sure that a PEP is a good idea and you have not yet bought your 1998-99 entitlement there are some offers around from providers desperate to vacuum up your money before the end of March. Royal & Sun Alliance is offering a 4 per cent discount on its unit trust PEP range including its Portfolio fund spread across a range of trusts and markets. Midland Bank and Legal & General are each offering a Capital-Protected PEP which guarantees full return of capital, and gains of up to 65-70 per cent over six or 6.5 years. S&P is offering a 2 per cent discount on transfers from other managers.

CLIFFORD GERMAN

The brave new world of round-the-clock banking

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gin. But the traditional lenders, like the

High Street banks, are making super-

profits. Interest rates have been falling

for some time, but there has been very

little movement in some lending rates.

I believe even the keenly priced loans

Accessing your account by phone was once at the cutting edge, yet modern technology will soon make it look passé. By Teresa Hunter

GARY MACKIE is one of thousands of financial-services workers who will be on duty throughout the Easter weekend to capture the last flows of tax-free PEP business, before they are abolished at midnight on Bank Holiday Monday.

He is a financial adviser with Abbey National, which has taken the unprecedented step of opening most of its branches on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday to cope with the expected last-minute rush.

And they are not alone. Staff at most large investment houses including Fidelity, Virgin, and Marks & Spencer will be working over the Easter break to make it easy for the

Working over a family holiday at-

tracted the wrath of various churches at Christmas, when some staff had to forgo the seasonal festivities to prepare for euro's arrival. The PEPS jamboree, which will keep employees chained to their desks this Easter, could well provoke a similar

storm of criticism. But the world has moved on from the traditional nine-to-five working day. Just as supermarkets open all night, customers now want access to their financial institutions 24-

hours a day, seven days a week. All the major banks now offer an rive on the scene 10 years ago, says it receives most of its 45,000 daily calls outside normal banking hours. Many of the callers throughout

the night are shift-workers, from oilrig crews, to student nurses and even actors. However, long hours and fre-

quent travel are no longer the prerogative of the travelling actor alone. Longer working hours prevent many people from focusing on their financial affairs until well into the twilight shift.

Mark & Spencer financial services regularly opens on Sundays to

public to exploit the tax-break before it disappears.

around-the-clock telephone banking meet this demand. A spokesperson service. First Direct, the first to are explained: "Modern lifestyles leave customers with very little free time. They feel comfortable operating over the telephone. We have to be there when they need us."

This is echoed by Virgin which says it receives a strong steady flow of business from 9pm into the small bours. Its bank is open roundthe-clock, and it has just extended the opening hours of its PEP and pensions business to 11pm.

A spokesperson said: "By the time many people have arrived home from work, had something to eat and unwound, it is 9pm or 10pm before they can begin to think about

whether they want a PEP or not. Prudential's new Egg round-theclock service found a good chunk of its overnight calls were from people abroad. Head of operations Andy Deller said: "If you have been working m Australia, for example, you will have to deal with a range of complex financial decisions to come home. It's a huge convenience to be able to organise things at a sensible time, even if it happens to be 4am

in England? But the technology is moving rapidly in a direction which could soon make the telephone call centre look as archaic as the bank branch does today.

Within the next two months First something of a select medium. Head Direct will follow Barclays and the Co-op and launch its mobile-phone service. It will transform the way we conduct our financial services, because the mobile phone is the one piece of equipment which can be carried at all time, putting us in control 24 hours a day. First Direct, which is the only bank so far to use overthe air programming, hopes the phones will be able to carry out

transactions in the very near future. The growth of digital TV could also see a buge surge in the use of the Internet to conduct banking and other financial services, which despite big strides forward is still

of Egg operations Andy Deller explains: "The thing that's holding the Internet back is the fact that only 20 per cent of homes have a PC. Those that do, use the Internet very enthusiastically, but the total numbers are much smaller than we tend to think."

The most exciting new technology is the Micro-wave bank recently developed by NCR, which takes the concept of time famine to the ultimate degree. The microwave door doubles as an easy-to-use interactive touch screen, which allows you to pay hills while you watch your evening meal being cooked.

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Debt through your door

Finance companies are bombarding people with junk mail for loans they can't afford. By Paul Slade

for tighter safeguards to protect vulnerable people from junk mail selling them credit cards or personal loans. This follows a survey showing that card and loan companies spent £222m on selling their products through direct mail in 1998. That translates to nearly 15 per cent of all the money spent on UK junk mail of any form.

National Consumer Council legal officer Harriet Hall says her own organisation's research shows that poorer people resent getting unsolicited offers of credit. Often, she says, these offers come from the same banks which are already chas-

ing the recipient to clear other debt. Sue Edwards is money advice development officer at the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux. She believes credit card and loan mailings get people into trouble when borrowers fail to think about what might happen in the future. Sometimes, if you read the small

†LGIM as at 31 December 1998, *Source: LGIM

(08.02.99) The running

(4.7% redemption yield) as at 8 February 1999

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have announced that contributions can only be made to PFPs until April

poor From that thie a new tax produced strang-

Savings Account USA) will be available.

investment products

assurance and

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are those currently

depend on your

yield of the Fixed

period. Problems also arise when the horrower's own circumstances change through, say, divorce or un-employment. "What happens is that people take out a card or a loan, their circumstances change, and then they can't afford them. That's even more of a problem than people taking out loans they already can't afford."

Hall agrees. "People don't get into debt because they're feckless." she says. "They get into debt because something has made them get into debt." NCC wants to see changes to the opt-out box which is often included as part of material requiring your address. The box lets consumers make it clear they do not want their address sold on for use on another company's mailing list. At the moment, inclusion of the box is voluntary, but ticking it does at least give you an opportunity to cut off junk mail before it arrives.

NCC is calling for the opt-out box to be made compulsory and much more prominent, and for it to be used print, you find the low interest rate in a standard format. It hopes these data protection legislation due for mentation next year.

Edwards believes few people take advantage of opt-out boxes at the moment, and would rather see a system which meant consumers had to give express permission before their name could go on a mailing list. NCC agrees this would be the ideal solution, but says legislators will not accept it.

Financial services companies churn out more junk mail than any other industry in the UK, as this month's survey from MMS Market Movements shows. Thirty-three per cent of all the £1.5bn spent on direct mail to UK consumers in 1998 went on selling financial services. Mail order, in second place, accounted for just 18 per cent of the total spend.

Three of the direct mail industry's four biggest spenders - MBNA, Comhill and Lloyds TSB - are financial services companies. Credit-card provider MBNA, which tops the list, spent £38.5m in 1998, £10m more than even consumer products giant Proctor &

onsumer groups are calling they're advertising is only for a short measures can be made part of new Gamble. For every £100 spent on do not want to receive unsolicited mail. direct mail of any kind, no less than £14.80 is devoted to selling credit cards and personal loans.

MMS spokesman Sebastian Kindersley says other financial services providers are moving to imitate the card companies' techniques. This, he warns, means more and more companies are already using organi-sations such as charities for jointventure mailings. "The first segment of financial services to do that in a big way was credit cards. Now it's happening in a lot more product areas, such as life insurance and

general insurance." If you want to reduce your own junk mail, the first step is to contact the Mailing Preference Service, using the address or phone number shown below. The MPS claims a 95 per cent success rate in preventing unsolicited mailings. It takes up to three months for the MPS to circulate your details to its members, however.

Nearly half-a-million people have registered with the service to say they You can also register with MPS to stop junk mail addressed to your home's previous occupant or to stop mail addressed to a member of your family

who has recently died.

But MPS cannot help you with mail from companies you originally contacted yourself. Colin Fricker, director of legal affairs at the Direct Marketing Association says: "If you've bought something from a company already, then they're perfectly entitled to send you information about their other services. If you want to stop that, you have to ask the company itself."

Tessa Kelly, director of compli-ance operations at the MPS, suggests asking for either the customer services department or the direct mail marketing manager when you call. "If companies are sending out mailings, then there is someone responsible for

Mailing Preference Service: 0345 034599. Freepost 22, London W1E

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Chancellor's taxing riddle

Gordon Brown will not go down in history as the great reforming Chancellor who simplified capital gains tax. Last year's Budget made things more diffcult to calculate not less, without even the compensation of making the tax more productive.

So where will he turn in 1999 in the quest for reform? The hot tip from financial advisers is an overhaul of inheritance tax, and especially potentially exempt transfers, the concession which allows individuals to escape IHT completely on assets given away more than seven years before death (and to qualify for reduced rates of tax if they live for at least three years and then five

years but less than seven

years after making the gift).

Inheritance tax has always been a voluntary tax which can actually be avoided either by giving assets away before death or putting them into a trust if you can afford the fancy legal advice. But it is potentially a very lucrative tax because of the rapid increase in personal wealth. fuelled by fat cat salaries and soaring share and property values. Although the starting point was raised sharply by the Tories and currently exempts estates worth less than £223,000, getting on for half a million homes in the UK

Without another leap in the threshold an increasing number of estates will start paying IHT over the next few years with beneficial effects to the Exchequer and very negative effects on Middle England. If potentially exempt transfers are abolished or the qualifying period is increased to 10 years or more the impact will be even greater.

are now liable to IHT quite

apart from other assets.

Alternatively the Chancellor might go back to the old-style Capital Transfer Tax (CTT) introduced by Denis Healey in 1974 which effectively taxed lifetime gifts above a certain size and for good measure triggered a
potential capital gains tax
liability on gifts. That was
replaced by IHT back in 1986 in one of the Nigel Lawson budgets, and one reason was to minimise the punitive impact of the tax on voters. Bringing CTT



CLIFFORD GERMAN Does the Chancellor

really want to bring back all Middle England's fears about the politics of envy

back would be unpopular and even if individuals could be forced to police themselves under the selfassessment system with threats of heavy sanctions for anyone caught breaking the rules, it would create a widespread culture of evasion, as well as hostility to the government.

Gordon Brown may have a reputation for having a hair shirt mentality but does the Chancellor really want to sacrifice the Government's enviable reputation for having a Tefion coating, bring back all the fears that Middle England harbours about the politics of envy, and give the opposition the weapon they are desperately seeking to attack the Government with.

By all means block the Lady Ingram loophole which allows individuals to give away their home and carry on living in it. But taxing more people's assets when they die will take the Government right back into the emotive tangle the Tories got itself into when it allowed local authorities to start taking old people's houses to pay for long term care. The Chancellor would be on safer ground abolishing MIRAS while mortgage rates are low.

My bet is that the Chancellor will stick to increasing the threshold for THT to £230,000 and concentrate on getting the maximum mileage out of introducing a 10p income tax band. In a perfect world he would substitute a 10p rate for the existing 20p rate to avoid re-introducing a fourth income tax band. If that proves too costly he could and should tinker with the width of the tax bands to fine-tune his fiscal give-away.

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A tale of two Cats

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: CATHERINE GERMAN AGE: 28 OCCUPATION: HIND STUDENT OF SHOE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE

doing several jobs in the UK and abroad, Catherine (Cat) is nearing the end of a two-year HND course in shoe design and manufacture. She has managed her finances well, with a little help from dad to keep her Renault 5 going, but now wants to plan ahead – particularly with regard to pensions.

She is renting a room, but wants to move out and share with her boyfriend. She has £3,500 outstanding in student loans, and, apart ation, and the Renault will need from a pension plan used to contract out of Serps a few years ago, has about £1,000 to see her to the end of her course. She has no financial dependants apart from Molly, her cat.

The adviser: Thomas McPhail, pensions development manager at doing this she will avoid a new loan

fter leaving school and Torquil Clark, independent financial at normal high-street rates. advisers (telephone: 01902 570570).

> The advice: Cat's student loan is being charged an interest rate equal to inflation, an attractive deal compared with cormal high-street lenders. She does not have to start repaying it until her income exceeds £17,784 pa gross; since her starting income is likely to be £12,000-£15,000, this is not an immediate problem.

> Cat will need up to £800 as a deposit on her new rented accommodreplacing soon, so she would be better off retaining as much of the original student loan as possible, and saving any surplus income from her new job. Though borrowed money is expensive, and it is gen-erally more efficient to clear debt, by

If she does need additional finance to buy a replacement car, she

can expect to pay up to £35 per month for every £1,000 borrowed. Cat is currently holding her cash in an instant-access account with a high-street building society and using a Barclays current account for day-to-day expenditure. She would be better off moving her savings to a telephone account with Standard Life or Egg (the Prudential) for competitive interest rates (up to 6.5 per

can be moved to her current account with only two or three days' notice. Cat'a personal pension plan is held with Scottish Widows, and has received rebates from the DSS for three years. It is currently worth £1,572.78 and has received no contributions since 1992. It is currently

cent gross for deposits), and money

invested in a with-profits fund, which is not ideal; with 30 years to go to retirement, Cat would be better off in an actively managed equity fund.

This type of pension has been inchided in the second phase of the personal pensions mis-selling review, so as she hasn't already heard from them, she should contact the adviser who sold her the policy and ask for it to be reviewed. Cat is fortunate that her policy has no on-going charges, so should increase in value.

Many mis-selling problems have stemmed from excessive charges on policies like this; the charges can be so high that the fund value goes down every year rather than up.

A woman under the age of 46 is generally better off contracting out of Serps; for men the cut-off age is higher, 51, but consideration should be given to income, as it is generally



Catherine German wants to make sure her sensible start does not go to waste

earnings of less than £9,000. When she starts work. Cat should contribute to a pension plan, saving as much as 14 per cent of her income for a secure retirement. She should choose a plan that doesn't pay excessive commission to an adviser. can be adapted without penalty, and

not worth contracting out for annual offers a reasonable choice of in- DSS form BR19 and send it to the vestment funds - as well as insurance in case she is unable to work, and a good investment record.

As well as her existing Scottish Widows pension, Perpetual's new personal pension may be worth looking at. And for a state pensioo

administration centre in Newcastle.

Readers who would like a free financial makeover should write to Andrew Verity of The Independent', 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They must be willing to ollow forecast, she should complete the their name and photo to propour

Private health on parade

Andy Couchman puts private insurance through a thorough medical

on trolleys ... a crisis in nursing ... billions of pounds disappearing into a seemingly gaping hole. This winter the hard-pressed NHS has hardly ever been out of the headlines. Does this strengthen the case for private health insurance?

In many countries the question would not even be asked. In the US, medical insurance is virtually a necessity. In the UK, however, the mere mention of insurance can stir up feelings of betrayal. Worse, you could be accused of being a queue jumper - the NHS pro-vides for all, regardless of ability to pay from cradle to grave.

The problem is that for many it simply does not work as they want it to - and the growing list of things charged for or not covered means that for many bealth provision is already partly privatised.

insurance (PMD) is more a necessity than a nice-to-have option. Anyone who runs their own business needs to be covered if illness strikes; and if queue is simply not an option,

PATTENTS LYING and dying then a PMI scheme could be PMI means that if you suffer an acute illness you can get treatment at a time and place treated by a consultant rather than a junior doctor and you are likely to get a room of your own rather than having to share a barrack-style ward. If you are a workabolic you can even

carry on working, at least until the anaesthetic hits you. If you have to buy your own PMI plan and you are employed, ask your employer whether you can join a company scheme. Group schemes cost a lot less than individual plans and will often cover things that are already wrong

with you - what insurers call

pre-existing conditions. When buying an individual plan, remember that not all PMI policies are the same and making a mistake can be very costly especially if the treatment you need turns out not to be covered. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has been extremely critical of the way some insurers avoid telling being part of someone else's the whole truth to customers. In particular, the OFT wants

how fast premiums are likely to rise - perhaps at double the rate of inflation or more - and that suit you. You will also be it wants them to understand exactly what they are and are not covered for

Shopping around for a plan to suit you always makes sense, and a little homework can help you to decide which plan to go for If your partner already has cover from an employer, save money by just insuring yourself. If your local NHS is better at treating children than adults you may decide not to cover your offspring.

London hospitals are the most expensive, so you may save money by choosing a provincial hospital - but check what would happen if you needed treatment that a local hospital could not offer. Some policies make a charge based on your postcode, so bear that in mind if you want to move. As their premiums are still likely the table below shows, budget plans can be a lot cheaper, but make sure you know what you are buying. Do you want, for example, to provide full medical information now, or would you prefer to have pre-existing conditions excluded? Ask your adviser or insurer to explain fully

the implications of each. You may be able to save 5 per cent by paying the first

to see customers told about just £100-£1,000 (or more) of any claims. You may save money by choosing not to have outpatient cover, though such costs can quickly mount up. Consider dental and travel cover.

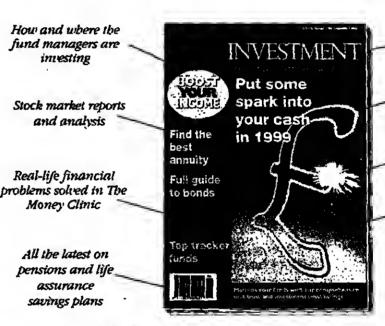
If you have NHS treatment, many insurers will pay you up to £100 for each night spent as an NHS patient. Or they may pay you if you have to stay with a sick child. If there is a big age difference between you and your partner, it may be cheaper to have individual policies.

Never buy on price alone. Make sure that you understand not only what the policy covers but also what it does not and compare with other policies. Ask too about the insurer's track record on price rises over a 35-year period. Some insurers, such as OHRA and Exeter do not charge higher premiums just because you get older Like all insurers, to go up each year, however, as

Contacts: BUPA: 0800 600 505; Climicare: 01438 740 426; Exeter Friendly Society: 01392 477 200; Legal & General: 0171-451 1132; OHRA: 01703 620 620; Permanent Health: 01923 770 000: Prime Health: 01483 553 461; WPA: 01823 623 000 per cent by paying yearly Andy Couchman is publishing instead of monthly or up to 25 editor of Health Care Insurnnce Report'

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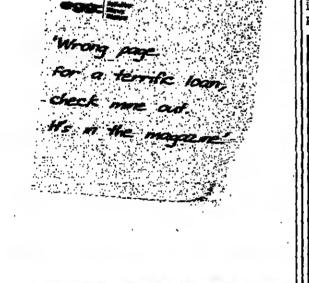
How much does it cost? A couple, both age 30, with two young children could pay each month:

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Source: Mediquote. Note: Not all insurers rovide premium details to Mediquote. Premiums assume no excess or other discounts



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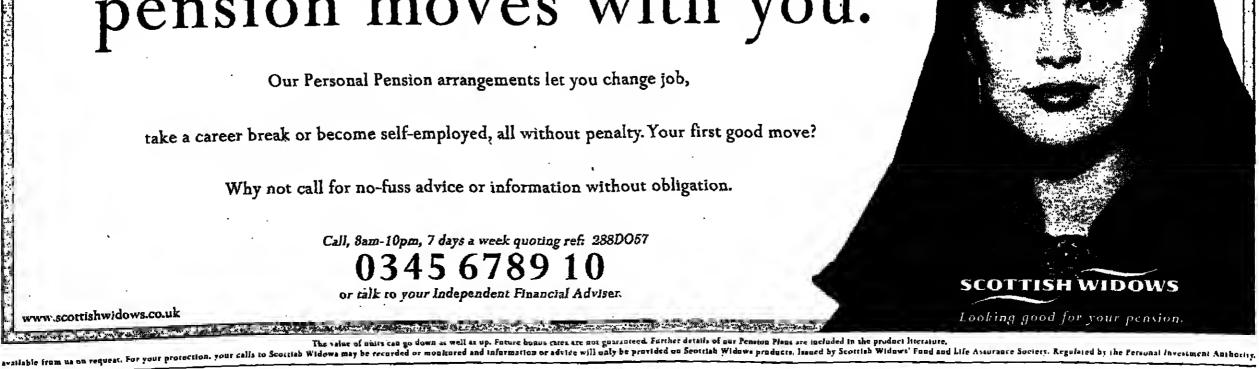
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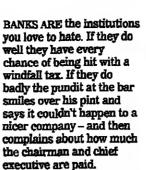
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only goes to show that even

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societies have fallen over

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bank reporting season, so

we can chart the winners

be Lloyds TSB. Britain's

can officially lay claim to

the number one slot now

that it officially resides in

London) has demonstrated

once again that it has costs

under control, its margins

understands how to make

money out of our money.

of itself at the analysts'

Barclays on the other hand

gave a rather sad account

meeting that followed the

publication of the results

this week. The new chief

the joh a few days, so

executive has only been in

perhaps the disappointment

felt by those who attended

the meeting owed more the

fact that he did not emerge

from a telephone kiosk,

wearing his underpants

over skin-tight trousers.

There are plenty who

the Superman touch after

involvement in the Russian

debacle and its lending to a

hedge fund that succeeded

m vapourising \$4bn in less

In theory now should not

time than it takes me to

be the time to huy bank

shares. Banks make more

money when interest rates

are high. Low rates mean

although banks have been

low margins in theory,

write this article.

the last year with its

ignominious exit from

investment banking, its

believe that Barciays needs

neatly sewn up and it

Among the winners must

second largest bank (HSBC

and losers.

are cropping up all over the place, while building

in the banking world

TORA

hard to ignore

remarkably adept at maintaining profit flow despite the less friendly environment that a lowthemselves to join the ranks charges on credit cards.

> ignore a sector that accounts for the bigges slug of the FTSE100 index by industrial categorisation. Still the results season is showing that you do have to be careful in your selection. Not the least reason for having this unsympathetic sector in your portfolio must be the certainty that consolidation will continue and that in five years there will be far fewer banks and many less branches around.

Barclays must be high on the likely merger list. My office looks straight into their headquarters on the other side of Lombard Street, so I am constantly watching for signs of unusual corporate activity. Even so I would prefer to stick banks demonstrating proof of quality, so Lloyds TSB remains at the top of my list along with the Scottish banks – although it is interesting that Barclays seems to have shunned the overtures of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Perhaps the alternative, the Bank of Scotland, should feature on your huy list. They are, after all, led by a supermarket baron, so he at least should understand the threats within the changing face of UK

Brian Tora is head of Greig Middleton Asset



BRIAN

In theory now is not the time to buy bank shares, but they are

inflation, low-interest-rate culture brings. You have only to look at the interest Overall I find it hard to

BEST MORTGAGES MORTGAGES POCED RATES WHOM lai 2 years - 4/3 morats interest Tot 5 years 5% of som repaid Lands & Hollands 85 5.25% b 30.4.04 2295 FIXED RATES 特 1st 6 yes: 3-6% of soon regald 149% to 1,481 1st 5 years : 5% of year reputs 3.90% for 3 years Scartomorph 85 150 5 years: 5 months interest 4.99% for 4 years 225 CAPPED MATES In 31,204 : 4.5% of 5mm repaid 0800 119955 455% to 1 435 274 Bristoi & West 1st 5 years 170 days weres Q1782 255150 4.95% To-31.1.02 5.85% for 4 years. 0980 133149 To 31.5.04 12/12/6/6/6 mass interest 0345 665522 3.55 KR to 31.5 ft 1st 5 years: 6.07% of sum repaid 4.20% for 3 years interest to end of mortif D1332 20766 \$250 hehats, fee refunded & ato to 90%, no Mil VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES 1st 6yrs 5:55:5:43% of sum repaid Perfund visin 6 mens from ASU & to 92%, sto Mil 1st 5 years: 5%of sum report \$250 relate, free IAP & tree ASU for 1 year To 30.4.05 · 1-3% of advance 4.95% to 30.4.04 --BEST SAVINGS RATES BEST BORROWING RATES 5.25% Card Saver traupri Instant 8345 421421 -01422 333333 - Notant Save NO NOTICE POSTAL ACCOUNTS OVERDRAFTS 5.85% Year 0345 555657 Direct Access · £500 6 D0% 01438 744500 Direct Postel NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS 30 Day (P) £5.000 6.25% Year £1,000 JR723 500816 AT Day Access CREDIT CARDS CHEQUE ACCOUNTS 01438 744505 HICA Ata 0.58%A 6.90KN N 25,000 5.75% ₹5,000 Leads & Hothark BS 6806 0726738 Albion Chemis 0900 429439 GOLD CARDS 0600 404070 Base Rule Visa 0 4585% 10.04% - £120 46 days £200 **FIXED RATE BONDS** 0800 128000 Adv Gold Visa 0.48%H . 5.90%H NJ 0117 9792222 Brittol & West 18.8.99 200508 551055 Macantan/Visa 0.56%A BOOKN THE 0171 2031650 Year Bond 1 Year Invested Bank (UK) 0845 6013672 PICT Action Hickiny & Rugby BS 0800 774499 . Flood Rate Bond FIRST TESSAS 1,393 5 Year .0500 T11200 .63'000 7,10% Logal & General. 01244 661681 1.93% 25.7% 199% SAGA for over 50's 0800 300555 . . 5 Year . 215% 29 0%

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IT APPEARS that the Internet is making real inroads into the way we make our financial de-cisions. A survey conducted on behalf of Fidelity Investments, the UK arm of the US investment giant, shows that a new generation of younger investors is using the Internet as one of its main sources of information when making an investment decision.

Over a third (35 per cent) of investors under the age of 35 said they used the Internet to help make their last invest-ment decision, compared to 17 per cent of investors between 35 and 55 and only 10 per cent of the over-55s. The telephonebased survey was carried out among Fidelity clients and those people who had expressed an interest in the com- now coming to the Internet for

pany's products.

Fidelity offers online dealing in unit trusts and Oeics and has systems already in place to allow customers to open new ISAs on-line, 24 hours a day. Given this strong electronic of the Net but, certainly in the US, most direct investors now turn to the Web as part of their

decision-making process.

Zach Leonard, Fidelity's director of electronic channel development, comments: "This is not yet the case in the UK, where direct unit trust and share investing via the Internet is still relatively limited. However, we believe that in the for their own profit. UK the Internet is already starting to change the way that people invest, due to the high quality of information that is now available via the Web. Over the next year we expect that Internet use will have doubled in both the UK and in continental Europe."

Fidelity is not the only company expecting hig things from the Internet. Richard Branson's Virgin has joined the stampede to make the Internet free at point of access. This week Virgin unveiled plans to line services. Virgin believes that, within five years, 96 per cent of British consumers will have access to the Internet, whether it be through a personal computer, a set-top box or a mobile phone.

Virgin Net will initially move all its existing members over to the free package and then ramp Robin can be reached at



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ised percentage rate

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N - introductory rate for a lambed period

B - Withdrawale viz Bard: Clearing System

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F - Food rate (all other rates variable)

Source: MONEYFACTS 01603 476476

All rates subject to change without entire. Source: MOMEYFACTS 01603 476476

LTV -- Loan to value

N -- Net 1250

P - By post only

MiP - Mortgage industrily on

INVESTOR

ROBIN AMLÔT

the offer to the general public in April. It was launched in November 1996, attracting more than 150,000 paying customers. Thousands of people are

the first time, thanks to cheaper personal computers and free connection. You may well be among their number and wondering where to start. An abiding difficulty with what is available on the Web is finding presence, the survey may per-haps be overstating the impact wheat from the chaff. The wheat from the chaff". The truth may be out there, but there is also an awful lot of rubhish as well.

There is no substitute for doing your own research and using your own judgement. Bulletin boards, mailing lists and tipsheets may offer ideas, but it is wise to remember that they can also be used by people who wanting to "ramp" a share

If you want to find out more about a particular company, most of the larger UK firms now have their own websites. One web page that offers a

manageable set of links for the individual investor is UKinvestor. It has been set up with the backing of bookshop Ama-

As well as offering suggested reading, which, surprise, surprise, you can order from Amazon.com, it does have links to the most useful UK personal finance sites. For the more invest £50 million to boost its on- adventurous investor, there is also a link to a sister website offering links for investors in the US markets.

> Fidelity Investments: www.fidelity.co.uk Virgin Net: www.virgin.net UKinvestor: ukinvestor.cjb.net

LOOSE CHANGE

JAMES CROSBY the new chief executive of the Halifax has taken a bit of a risk this week in returning £1.5bn of capital to shareholders. In June they will get a windfall of 62p a share, which counts as a capital gain but will be exempt from income tax.

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Investors will only have 37 shares in future for every 40 they have now, however, Mr Crosby is staking his reputation on being able to increase dividends by at least 8.1 per cent, so that each shareholder receives at least as big a total payout

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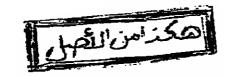
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Some of the UK's top fund managers reveal their trade secrets to Simon Read

ANALYSIS

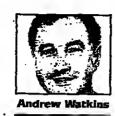
Andrew Watkins, sales director, Fleming Income & Growth, Fleming Claverhouse, Fleming Income & Capital. "We have a strict discipline for the management of UK assets, whether in unit trusts or investment trusts. This discipline involves three key processes: quantitative, fundamental and thematic. Quantitative looks at value, price momentum, earnings-pershare revisions and growth. Fundamental covers pricing authority, management, sustainability and free cash-flow. Thematic looks at technology, demographics and long-term low

"Having screened our analysts' work all UK stocks are then rated on a scale of 1-5 with the intention that no portfolio should hold stocks rated 4 or 5. The discipline has produced extremely good and consistent results." Performance success: Fleming Income & Growth - 7th out of all qualifying investment trust PEPs over three years, Fleming Claverhouse -17th over five years, Fleming Income & Capital - 15th over one year

BORING

Chris Bowie, fund manager, Murray Corporate Bond. "Murray Corporate Bond Fund has been a good performer because it is boring. I huy only high-quality investment-grade sterling bonds - nothing fancy, no higheryielding bonds, no preference shares, no convertibles, no derivatives. Investments are only made in companies with stability of earnings and good cash flow. Fund volatility is minimised and steady, healthy returns with no nasty surprises are produced."













Performance success: Murray Corporate Bond - 20th out of all qualifying unit trust PEPs in regular savings PEPs over five years. mes over one year

CONSISTENCY

Roger Guy, investment manager, Gartmore European Selected Opportunities. "My aim is to be as consistent in performance as possible, 1 have achieved this. Gartmore European Selected Opportunities is a core and satellite fund. A core of 50 per cent in blue chips comes from Gartmore's Pan-European model, whereas a satellite of 50 per cent is in selected opportunities from Gartmore's Pan-European research.

"Overweights and underweights are strictly limited to 10 per cent for larger markets and 5 per cent to zero in smaller markets. This strict control ensures that unreasonable overweight positions can not be taken.

Performance success: Gartmore European Selected Opportunities – 8th out of all qualifying investment trust

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Ian Lance, investment manager. Gartmore Global Utilities "Gartmore is a PEP-qualifying fund. This means that 50 per cent of the fund must be in UK and EU stocks. Gartmore believes that global industrial sectors are becoming as important as geograpbical sectors as companies themselves become multinational. To benefit from this we have a team of global analysts, researching companies in a highly structured and disciplined way, I'm a member of that team and work closely with Gartmore's own global portfolio team of fund managers."

Performance success: Gartmore Global Utilities - 6th out of all qualifying unit trust PEPs over one year

LARGE BLUE CHIPS Michael O'Hara, fund manag Murray European. "During 1998 the key to the fund's outperformance was a focus on large cap stocks and the avoidance of cyclical sectors. 1 decided to avoid sectors where earning growth is heavily depen-

dent on increasing global growth. As such, sectors such as telecoms, life insurance and IT featured heavily in the portfolio, while there was no exposure to steels, chemicals and heavy engineering." Performance success: Murray European – 5th out of all qualifying unit trust Peps over one year

STOCK SELECTION

John Ross, senior portfolio strategist. Fidelity International, "Stock selection, particularly in the US market, proved very rewarding: technology companies such as Amazon, Yahoo

and America On-line showed extraordinary performance. In Japan we focused on high-quality business that can grow profits over time regardless of the external environment." Performance success: Fidelity International - 4th out of all qualifying unit trust PEPs in regular savings

TOTAL RETURN

schemes over one year

Nigel Lanning, fund manager, Dresdner RCM Merchants. The portfolio is now valued at nearly £540million and cooceotrates on the largest blue chip UK companies. Attention to total return, as well as income, is a key factor in the successful formula. The management team is constantly seeking companies with attractive prospects in the FT-SE 100 area or just outside it. Despite having one of the highest yields at 4.6 per cent, the trust is a sector leader over the last three

Performance success: Dresdner RCM Merchants - 45th out of all qualifying investment trust PEPs over five years

VISITS

Jeffrey Taylor, fund manager, Per-petual European. "We try to anticipate macro-economic trends and market themes as a guide to stocks. Visiting companies across Europe is a key part of our approach. When we are convinced of a case we are happy to take a big position, while keeping our eye on the weighting relative to our benchmark index to judge risk." Performance success: Perpetual European - 5th out of all qualifying in-

0800 050098: Britannia on Graham Bates Investment Services on 0113 295 5955: Kohn Cougar on 0117 946 6384; Aitchison & Colegrave oo 0141 332 5961; Pretty Financial on 0171-377 5754; BEST Investment on 0171-321 0100; Fidelity on 0800 414171: Financial Discounts Direct on 01420 549090; Scottish Widows oo 0131 655 6000; Societe Generale on 0808 100 4432; M&G 0800 390390; HSBC on 0800 181890; Jupiter on

0141 248 2000; BWD Rensburg on 0113 245 4488; CGU oo 0181-686 9818; Gartmore on 0800 289336; Invesco on 0800 010333: Legal & General on 01222 448412; Marks & Spencer on 0800 363432; M&G on 01245 390390; Newton oo 0800 614330; Old Mutual on 01256 768888; Perpetual on 01491 416123; Portfolio Fund Managers on 0171-638 0808; Save & Prosper

Look to Europe for long-term growth

The continent is opening up, but there are plenty of investment opportunities nearer to home. By Tony Lyons

investors to make up their minds. If you have not already made your PEP investment for the current financial year, you need to act now.

But the problem facing any potenin a very volatile state. Even though the UK has clawed back most of the fall since last summer, and the FTSE 100 even touched a new high in Janwhere share prices are heading.

"If we really are now in a low inflation environment, investors should

returns of the past must be forgotten. If you can make 8 to 10 per cent per annum when inflation is running at under 2.5 per cent, you are doing well."

PEPs are best suited to long-term tial investor is where to put your investment. "Deciding where to put money. Stock markets continue to be your PEP money depends very much on your aims," says Roger Cornick of Perpetual, the largest PEP manager. "Are you young and therefore likely to be looking for long-term growth or it uary, there is still nervousness about you are a more mature investor, are their profits, while others are atyou looking for more tax-free income and less growth?

"Generally, if you are a first-time

WITH JUST a few weeks to go before expect lower returns," says John PEP investor looking for growth, you PEPs disappear, now is the time for Irons of Societé Generale. "The high should look initially at UK funds. If you already have UK PEPs, or take a more international outlook, then you should consider European funds. Those seeking to maximise income should consider corporate bood funds."

The latter are likely to be the most widely bought PEPs in the run-up to the end of the financial year. Many investors nervous about where stock markets are heading are transferring their existing hol in order to bark tracted by the headline yields, gen-

erally between 6 and 8 per cent. The problem with corporate bonds union is likely to strengthen compe-

is that they offer less potential for capital growth. "While they will suit someone seeking to maximise income with low risk," says Toby Thompson of Newton, "many investors could do better with an income fund that gives a good total return, that is a balance of

rising dividends and capital growth."

If you are looking for long-term growth, most fund managers advise European funds. "The trend in rising share prices of continental European countries is very fixely to continue over

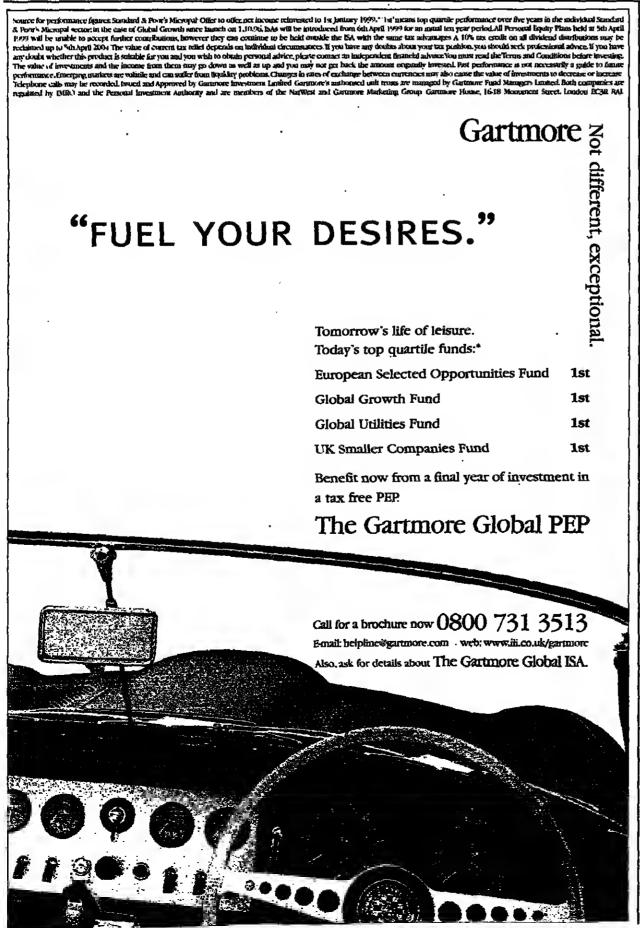
cession and the recent mooetary

tition in the EU," says Loughlin Callahan, of Mercury Asset Management. European shares will also benefit

from increased pension fund buying, with European pension funds now looking to invest increasingly in equities throughout the EU for the growth to provide the future pensions

for an increasingly ageing population. Meanwhile, "growth investors should not ignore the UK," says Cornick, "as there is still good value to be "Europe is still coming out of re- avoid, we are optimistic about the outlook onwards from the secood half







Make all the right moves

Select the right fund and sector to be on to a winner. By Iain Morse

PERSONAL EQUITY Plans have been available for 12 years and their past performance can vary from the sublime to the ridiculous. Among the best performers, Foreign & Colonial's Enterprise investment trust PEP has grown £1,000 into £3,552 over five years, a compound annual return of 28.6 per cent. Compare this to a return of just £1,034.92 over the same period for the same initial investment from Murray Johnstone's Smaller Companies PEP fund (source

Moneyfacts to 29.01.99). But care is needed: Foreign & Colonial's fund invests in the high-risk and volatile venture and development capital sector. These are small company shares, and Murray's fund shows the risks inherent in the sector.

"Choice of sector and fund is critical," warns Richard Hunter, of the independent financial advisers Holden



Euro PEPs: on top Brian Harris

Meehan. "But you should also look at charges and be clear about the period over which you are investing."

The five top-performing unit trust PEPs over the last five years have all been European funds, including Gartmore's European Selected Opportunities, which has turned £1,000 into £2,945.67 over the same period.

long way to go. Our fund yields only about 1.5 per cent, but is showing strong capital growth.

"What we are seeing in European equity markets is a fundamental shift to giving shareholder value. Also there is a move by private investors away from cash, bonds and property towards equities. I expect the sector to continue to give good returns."

Most European funds exclude shares in British firms, but Newton has just launched a PEP that covers a pan-European unit trust. This could be the start of a trend; the euro and convergent tax regimes are creating what amounts to a single stock market

for shares traded in European firms. Newton's Sara Royle says: "Some of the main opportunities in Europe are not now one-country specific and need a fund investing across the continent."

The pros and cons

Nic Cicutti answers common questions on whether to invest in PEPs

merits of investing in a PEP will lows the Inland Revenue to do have many questions. Here are some of the most common.

Why invest in a PEP? If you are looking for capital to make more than if you placed your money in a building society deposit account, it makes sense to invest in one. That said, perhaps you may not be a taxpayer, in which case, simply investing in one of the PEP's underlying investment prod-ucts may suit you just as well.

Broadly, it is the fact that income from a PEP is tax-free. And if you keep your money invested, this income rolls up in a tax-free environment.

What are the benefits of a

What about capital gains? Capital gains tax (CGT) is payable on the first £6,800 of realised gains in the current tax year. So you would need to see substantial profits from your PEP investment before benefiting from its tax-free envi-

What happens if I take out more than one general PEP in a vear?

The taxman will catch you. When you take out a PEP you have to give your National

What are the risks of a PEP? They vary from PEP to PEP But essentially, they are the same growth or income, or a balance risks as with all equity-linked in-of the two and you are hoping vestments. Basically, the value of your fund can fall as well as rise, and you could get back less than you have invested although this is not the case with some "guaranteed" funds.

This could affect the income stream you may be expecting from a PEP. That said, over a longer period of time, the world's largest stockmarkets have delivered better returns than through a bank or build-

ing society account. Can I have PEPs for my kids? PEPs are a good way to save for a child's education. You cannot open one in a child's name, though. If your children are over 18 and UK residents, they can open one for themselves. You can fund their PEP, al-though the cheques into it must come from them, not you. What can I use PEPs for?

The list is probably endless. You can use PEPs to help pay off a mortgage in just the same way as with old-style endowment mortgages. They will help pay for your kids' education and are

Unless you are thinking in don't invest in a PEP Most financial advisers recommend at of a chance to smooth out the yourself, with the aim of setting least five years. Ten gives more stockmarket's ups and downs. What about charges?

Charges vary substantially. You tial charge of up to 6 per cent, plus an annual management fee of up to 1.75 per cent. This means that if you were investing only for the short term, the initial charge on a PEP could well cancel out any growth in the first year.

How would I cash in a PEP? Simple. You contact the company concerned, give them notice of encashment by filling in to be a dog you can move. a form they will send you, or by sending in a letter, and a cheque will be on its way to you within weeks. Remember By transferring your shares, you though: once you have cashed in that PEP you will lose that year's PEP entitlement forever. What about partial encashment?

The same applies as above. Beware of penalties for partial

What about transferring between PEP providers?

ANY INVESTOR considering the Insurance number, which al- How long should I keep a switching between one fund manager and another. You can switch without affecting this terms of at least three years, year's allowance. But to retain your PEP entitlement your new manager must do the donkey work - do not sell the PEP

up a new one. How can I transfer? The new manager will send you could find yourself paying an inimay however be a problem. Some PEP managers administer their plans so that each year's separate PEP is amaigamated with previous years'. Can I switch between funds

under one manager? Usually that is not a problem. If the investment sector you have been in is not doing well, or the fund you are in has turned out There may be transfer charges. Is there tax to pay if I switch from one fund to another? are effectively selling the old ones and buying new ones. But

because this is done within a PEP there will be no tax to pay. Can I add to my PEP? Yes, as long as it is within the annual £6,000 limit for general PEPs and £3,000 for single company PEPs. Bear in mind that

- 1 24

once that tax year is over, you cannot add to that year's PEP

Fidelity has the strength, resources and talent to run READ ALL ABOUT IT. this type of fund and has not

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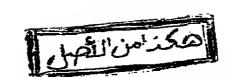
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Time to switch?

If your PEP has been a bit of a dog, maybe you should move your funds. But study the options carefully. By Tony Lyons

t may not be obvious to most PEP investors, but a second battle front in the war for our custom is opening up. This is not simply about where to place our last remaining £6,000, but about where to transfer all our other PEP investments if we feel they are not performing well enough.

Fund managers know too well that there will be no more PEP money after 5 April. In addition to limbering up for the new Individual Saving Account (ISA); which comes on stream thereafter, they aim to take advantage of the fact that this last deadline is also likely to stimulate many of us into checking how well our investments have done so far.

It may be tempting to switch out of a poorly performing PEP before the April deadline. But you shouldn't rush into any precipitate decisions. While no new money will be allowed into PEPs, transfers between managers will still be allowed. It will, in fact, be the only PEP market in town.

Why should anyone consider a transfer? There can be any number of reasons. Over time, your investment aims may change. Younger investors are more likely to be looking for tax-free maximum capital growth, while older ones tend to be more keen to seek extra income to supplement a pension, As you near retirement age, you may want to transfer your PEP funds from higher to lower-risk investments.

Maybe you have a number of PEPs with different managers, having in the past allocated your annual allowance to different groups, and now want to consolidate them under one roof. Or you could be nervous about the direction share prices are heading. If so, and you have made substantial profits from existing PEPs, you may then want to park your existing profits in a low-risk home.

BAR ISAS

But one of the best reasons for transferring is because you have invested in a fund that has consistently been underperforming. Unfortunately, there are a large number of funds that fail to beat their benchmarks, let alone do better than their numerous rivals.

"After three years is a good time to assess performance - so many groups have changed ownership and many managers have moved on to other jobs in that time," says Jason Holland of BESt Investment Brokers, who specialise in PEP and unit trust investment.

the market correctly, quite a few have consistently got it wrong," says Mr Holland. And unless there is a convincing argument otherwise, these are the funds you should seriously consider moving.

His company regularly reviews PEP

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und April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged

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funds and has found that while there are a number a top performers, there are many dogs, funds that always seem to underperform. It defines a dog as one that consistently not only fails to beat its beachmark index, but also fails it by 10 per cent or more. BESt Investment has produced a review of these dogs, available to readers who contact the company.

"Investors should periodically review their PEPs" says Graham Bates of Best Investment Services. "There is no reason to leave your money in funds that consistently underperform. So many investors buy a PEP that they then shove away in a drawer. The periodic statements and valuations they receive will tell them that the performance reflects the market, but this does not necessarily mean that the fund has been doing well. In fact, it could be doing rather badly compared with its competitors in the sector."

As many investors fail to do these reviews, Graham Bates is offering help with this, in return for giving his firm the renewal commission paid to advisers by PEP managers.

To help you decide, the table shows the average performance of fully qualifying funds in the most popular sectors. If your PEP investment shows a poorer returns, you many wish to consider making a transfer.

If you do want to move your existing PEP investment vehicle within the same group, to a low-risk investment or from a poor performer to a better one, all that is often needed is a quick phone call followed by confirmation of the transfer in writing. This can often be done free of charge or at a low cost and takes very little time.

If you want to transfer part of a PEP holding to another manager you face a major problem. Most groups, apart from Fidelity, bundle your PEPs together. This means that they have no way to separate each year's PEP investment.

Of the main management groups only Fidelity allocates each year's allowance into a discrete PEP. So apart from this group, you cannot do a partial transfer. You are faced with an all or nothing decision.

If you decide to go ahead, you will need to ask the new manager for the necessary forms, fill them in, and then wait for the transfer to happen. "This can take some time, anything up to month, when you will be out of the market," warns Mr Holland. Also watch out as a large number of PEP

managers will make a charge for transfers. "Further there is no guarantee that the new fund will give an improved performance," says Graham Bates. "And if there is a 5 per cent initial charge with the new fund, it will have to do that much better"

"If you transfer to a group that is offering a discount on its charges at the or better," says Paul Penny of Financial Discounts Direct, one of a large number of execution-only brokers who offer discounts to PEP investors. "So you may find that the initial charge can be sub-



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Get a drip on yourself

The deadline for buying PEPs may be just weeks away, but the spectre of stockmarket volatility is a powerful

deterrent to buyers. However, stress-free investing can be yours - with a drip-feed PEP By Iain Morse

bere is only a matter of weeks left if you fancy a last-minute PEP (closing date is 5 April, the end of the tax year). But feeds into equities a bit at a time. if you have been left feeling queasy by share-price volatility, the thought of investing up to £6,000 in a lump sum could be too much to stomach.

After all, December of last year saw some of the largest ever one-day rises and falls in the value of the FTSE All Share Index.

Richard Hunter, of 1FA Holden Meehan, warns: "We could still be in for a white knuckle ride. I bave oot advised any of my clients to make single premium payments into an equity PEP over the last 12 months. Pound cost averaging is the best response to real market uncertainty of the kind we now face."

This approach spreads investment over peaks and troughs, buying into unit or investment trusts each month. PEP providers are allowed to offer this facility for up to 12 mooths of the

vest in the PEP now, and the manager

Drip-feed PEPs combine a taxfree cash account with regular premium savings plan into one or more of their available funds.

If you invest just before the 5 April 5 deadline, your cash will earn interest gross while paying regular monthly premiums into one or more funds of your choice for up to 12 months. But a little care is needed; not all providers offer this facility and there can be significant variation between those that do

For instance, NPI offers a drip-feed PEP investing your cash over three, six or 12 months. Its tax-free cash account is paying a current gross rate of 5.25 per cept interest with a minimum lump sum of £4,000 and choice

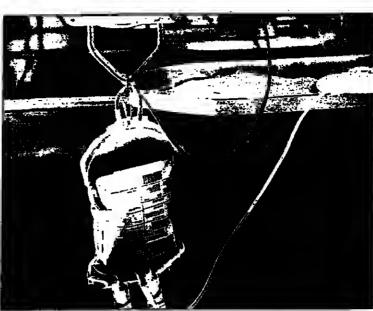
of up to eight qualifying funds. Meanwhile, Henderson Investors will let you invest over the same you, call 0117 971 1177

tax year following that in which you use periods but also a offers a reinvestyour PEP allowance. Basically, you in-ment option within the overall 12month limit. This allows you to redeem any investment already made for the current year's PEP, revert your cash to a tax free account, and then re-in-

vest it over three or six months. Henderson is currently paying 5 per cent gross on cash balances, will accept a minimum lump sum investment of £2,000 and offers a choice of 25 unit and investment trusts through its plan.

Fidelity has also entered the field bot offers phased investment over only six months, with a minimum lumo sum investment of £6.000. Interest is currently paid at 4.25 per cent, with a choice of up to 20 qualifying funds.

For further advice on drip-feed PEPs contact Richard Hunter at Holden Meehan on 0171-692-1700 or speak to your existing independent financial adviser. For details of an adviser near



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For your protection all telephone calls may be recorded.

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Cut the costs when you buy

It's worth shopping around to get the best deals. By Iain Morse

AS MANY as one in five of us now buys PEPs and other financial products direct. This means answering an advertisement or making a telephone call as a first step

to making an investment. Behind this lies a revolution in consumer attitudes. "People now know at least the general characteristics of a PEP," explains Anthony Yagdaroff, of PEP broker Allen Direct, "and do not feel the need to pay high commission fees for a face-to-face meeting with an adviser."

PEPs will be superseded by the new Individual Savings Account from 5 April, and a boom in their sales is expected in the runup to this deadline.

If buying through an independent financial adviser (IFA) or a company representative, expect commission to be deducted as an up-front charge from the value of your investment. Most PEPs earn the advisers selling them commission of at least 3 per cent of the amount

invested - up to £180 for the maximum £6,000 allowance. Should you be tempted to buy direct and cut these costs, this can be done from several different sources notably a product provider. Some of these offer only a limited product range through their own direct sales operations. For instance Virgin Direct offers only two PEPs - a UK same for your plan. Tracker growth fund and bond and gilt income fund.

Neither of these carries any initial charges, and both have low respective annual management charges of just 1 and 0.7 per cent. Direct Line is also competing in this sector of the market, with a FTSE 100 Tracker PEP, again with no initial charge and with an annual management charge of 1 per cent.

Elsewhere, Midland Bank runs Midland Direct, marketing its Household Names PEP to existing customers, again with no initial charge and an annual management charge of 1

The drawback of these providers is that they do not offer much in the way of independent financial advice when you buy one of their PEPs. In particular, they are under no obligation to recommend plans from other providers that might suit you better.

This means that caution is needed before you decide to buy from them. The products they offer have low charges, but also offer a very limited choice of funds. UK tracker funds are the most common in this category because they are uniquely suited to being sold without an initial

charge. Other discounted fund types - particularly those investing into corporate bonds, and gilts, involve real risk to capital and require active managen

Corporate Bond PEPs are also on offer without an initial charge, and are frequently sold direct by providers such as Fidelity. These funds hold only bonds issued by large companies, again with possible risk to both income and capital.

Providers such as Perpetual and Fidelity, which offer far wider ranges of PEP funds, have been reluctant to enter the direct market because they rely so heavily on other channels to sell their products particularly IFAs.

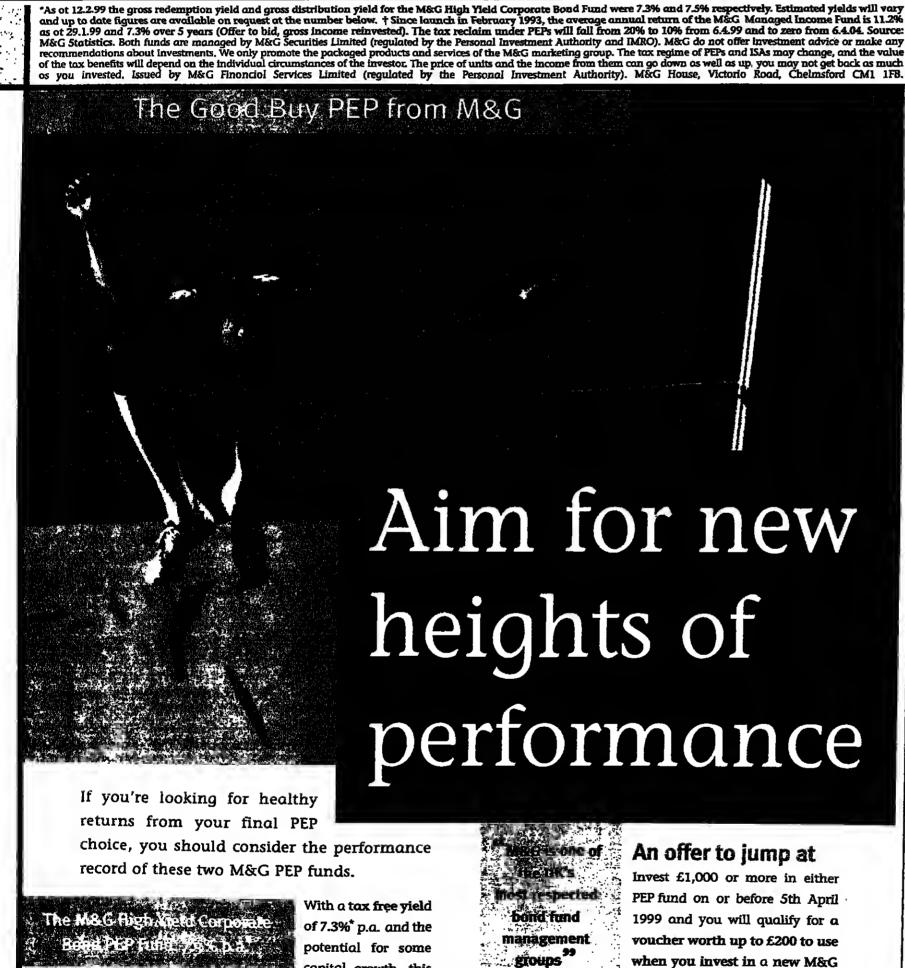
One way round this is for providers to offer discounts on any initial charge both on PEPs bought direct and through IFAs; this can cut charges to 2 or 3 per cent. Either way, you pay the

To reduce initial charges further, you can buy from discount brokers who reinvest or rebate some or all their initial commission, living off so-called "trail commission" of 0.5 to 1 per cent of the PEP's fund value thereafter.

Shop around, and this approach can help you buy a managed PEP with no initial charge.

Most discount brokers offer general guidance on the past performance of PEPs and risk-reward ratings of underlying type of investments they hold.

Product providers include: Direct Line, 0845 3000233: Midland Direct, 0345 456123; Virgin Direct 0345 900900. Discount brokers include: Allen Direct, 0800 339999; PEP Direct, 0800 413186; PEP Shop, 0115-982



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annual return has been achieved since launch. As a

'fund of funds,' it invests in a range of M&G equity and

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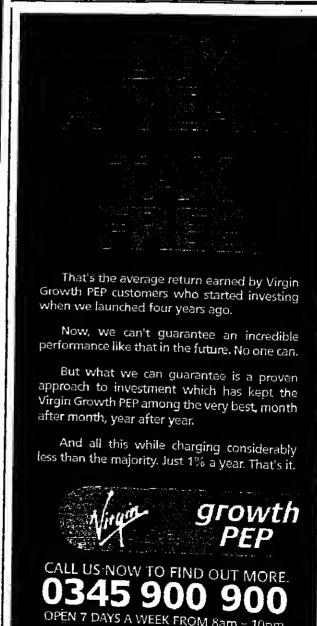
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The M&G Managed Income

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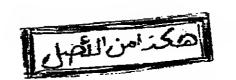


Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal itment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guilde to the future. You can invest in a PEP

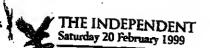
right up until 5 April 1999 when they will attract the same tax benefits as the new Individual Savings Account. All calls are recorded and mo

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, www.micropal.com, single

6.3.95 to 15.2.99, gross income re



COMBERG MONEY, OCTOBER 1998



which is right for you? By Nic Cicutti



Plotting a successful course through the markets is the key to a successful PEP

IT IS possible to break PEPs in their sector. A key factor down into a number of categories, of which managed, corporate or single company, equity and income, along with tracker funds, are the most

Corporate bond PEPs aim to provide a reasonably high ncome stream. If a company wants to raise capital at a ixed cost it will offer bonds - paying a higher rate of inerest than a savings account.

Fund managers aim to pick which offer a combination of high income with minimal risk. They income funds will typically be generally argue that corporate onds are low-risk.
WHAT YOU SHOULD

WATCH OUT FOR: Corporate ond PEPs may have both an "income" yield or a redemption" yield. The ormer gives an indication of he income that you might eceive at current yield rates. The latter is a measure of the btal possible return, taking nto account both income ayments and the capital epayment at maturity of the onds held in the portfolio.

If the redemption yield is igher than the income yield, hat's OK. If it is significantly ower, it means that some of be income you receive may ead to losses.

ate risk. If interest rates rise, ond prices will fall. This reans you might get back less

Tracker funds are almost lways a type of unit trust EP which aims to match the tockmarket. This approach istinguishes trackers from

nanaged PEPs. While there are some scellent fund managers, jost fail to beat the index ost of the time, which is makes trackers tractive for novice investors. WHAT YOU SHOULD ATCH OUT FOR: Most ackers will deliver similar

therefore is cost. The lower the management fee and initial charges the better. Also, while trackers will deliver above-average performance (because the average fund under-performs the index) putting all your money in trackers means accepting market risk.

Equity/income growth PEPs offer a mixture of Equity/income income and growth, where investors trade a lower income initially for a higher eventual yield. Yield on about 1 per cent greater than that available on shares generally. That suggests that a yield of about 3 to 4 per cent is about right if you want the opportunity of capital growth. THINGS TO WATCH OUT

FOR: Income may fall in difficult years as struggling companies cut their dividends. Ones that quote the highest immediate yield may offer few opportunities for either capital growth or future income rises.

This may be because they have invested in lower-quality companies or because a higher proportion of your money is invested preference shares or gilts to boost immediate income.

With a managed fund, once Also, watch out for interest you have decided on the investment objective, a fund choosing, good independent advice is generally crucial. THINGS TO WATCH OUT

FOR: Because managed funds vary widely, it is easy to make erformance of a given a mistake. You should always compare performance over several distinct time periods.

Independent' has published a free Guide to PEPs', written by Nic Cicutti, the personal finance editor. The guide, sponsored by Scottish Widows, explains many of the commonest questions and offers tips on how to find the best PEP. For erformance relative to others your copy, call 0345 678910

Game of risk - and reward PEPs come in many guises - but On the right track, yet? Fancy tackling the stock market but don't know where to start? Index tracker funds are not The latest for the beginner to got a footbold. By Rachel Fixsen

Fancy tackling the stock market but don't know where to start? Index tracker funds are not such a bad place for the beginner to get a foothold. By Rachel Fixsen

seem pretty complicated, so anything that makes it easier to understand is welcome, and this is one of the key attractions of index tracker funds. Highearning fund managers are often seen in the financial press, expounding their views on the future direction of the market and the successful points of their personal investment strategy. So how is it that tracker funds, or passive funds, sometimes produce better returns for their investors by mindlessly following a formula? Is there more to trackers than meets the eye?

What is a tracker?

Firstly, it is an investment fund - this could be a unit trust or an open-ended investment company (OEIC). Equity investment funds hold shares in a large number of companies, and anyone can then buy units or holdings of that fund. What distinguishes it as a tracker is that the fund manager tries to make the fund mirror the

INVESTING IN the stock market can movements of a particular stock mar- to pick those stocks which perform there is only a random chance it will ket index - say the FTSE 100. So all trackers must be the same ... No - for a start, they don't all follow the same index. Some are more successful at sticking to the index, and some are more expensive.

> What's the best index for a tracker to track?

> A UK index tracker might follow the FTSE All-Share index or the FTSE 100, and some track the FTSE 250. The All-Share covers most of the UK stock market index, the FTSE 100 only takes in the 100 largest companies. The pros and cons of each vary, depending on the stock-market.

How do active funds work? Active funds are the opposite of trackers. An active fund manager uses his or her investment skills to achieve even higher returns than a particular index or accepted benchmark. This means analysing research on companies and the economy; and hoping

better than average.

What are the best things about a tracker?

It's easy to understand and you're not relying on the skills of one individual. Passive funds tend to achieve better performance than most active fund managers, according to many studies. Analysis by the WM Company shows that the majority of actively managed trusts underperformed the FTSE All-Share index over the last decode.

Why choose an actively managed fund?

You may believe a particular fund manager is capable of outperforming passive funds. Some, though not many, actively managed trusts do outperform the index in the long-term. The WM Company says, But their study highlights how hard it can be to pick a good fund, showing that even if a fund is in the top 25 per cept in performance tables in a five-year period.

repeat that in the next. "Not only do very few managers beat the index, but it's almost impossible to identify in advance those that do," says Rowan Gormley, chief executive of tracker provider Virgin Direct.

Any other reasons?

Trackers tend to perform well in certain investment sectors, but there are others where they don't. "Looking at the US, there's a powerful argument for a tracker," says Rob Fisher of HSBC Asset Management, Less than 15 per cent of actively managed US funds outperformed the index in the last quarter of 1998. But this is not necessarily the case for investment in Europe or Japan, for example.

Are trackers safer than other PEPs?

No. This is a myth, A tracker follows an index on its way up, but also has to follow it back down. When the market is falling, active funds often do

better than trackers, their advocates say. In periods of volatility, active managers can shelter investors by holding fewer equities and more bonds, cash and gilts. But an actively managed fund could become heavily exposed to one particular company which its manager believed was a rising star. If he or she were wrong, that large holding could seriously dent the entire fund.

Why is our Government approving them, then?

It's not approving them, exactly. But trackers do win the Treasury's CAT benchmark for Individual Savings Accounts, This means that purely in terms of cost, accessibility and terms, this type of fund meets the standard

The Independent has published a 28-page guide to PEPs by Nic Cicutti. sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Monagement. For a copy of the guide.

The star in a galaxy of PEPs A top derive tales ave

upiter Income Trust continues to set the standard for PEP investment. Its record is outstanding, over short periods as well as long, as shown in the table opposite. Its recent top sector performance has taken the fund

to the £1 billion fund size milestone proving that, in the case of this fund, size is no hinderance to top performance. Moreover, this performance has been achieved

without undue risk. Over five years, the fund's volatility - the accepted measure of investment risk was substantially less than the sector average.**

The fund has a triple-A rating - the highest awarded from S&P Fund Research and a four star rating from S&P Micropal.

Make your last PEP a star PEP. Talk to your financial adviser, call us free or return the coupon.

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*Source: S&P Micropal, total return/annual voletility, 5 years to 1.2.99. Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO and the Commerciank AG, one of Germany's leading banks. The value of an investment in a unit trust and the income from it can go down as well as up, it may be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Custed gross distribution yields of the funds are not guaranteed, Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. It was announced in the March 1998 Budget that text credits will continue to be reclaimable in a PEP although no subscriptions can be made after 5 April 1999. From 6 April 1999 PEPs will have the same text advantages as the new included Savings Account. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to further performance. Up to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Growth & Income Fund, Income Fund, Income Fund, Income Fund, This may accordingly restrict capital growth. For your security we may record or randomly monitor all telephone calls. If you are unsure of the suitability of this investment please contact your financial adviser. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ud., 4 Grosvenor Place, London SWIX 7TJ. Scheme particulars and key leatures documents may also be obtained from that address. Investment does not automatically give you entitlement to compensation under the Investors' Compensation Scheme; further information

EVERY YEAR SINCE 1991

Single sheets with soul

turned his sign as a young man to work purely in silver, he had no intention of making knives and forks or even rings, but had bigger things in mind. Seduced by the precious metal's reflective and sculptural qualities, this Dutchman hoped to breathe modernity into a dwindling skill. Thirty years on, his work graces the collections of world leaders and will show as a centrepiece of next week's Spring Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair, where his pieces are seen as possible antiques of the future.

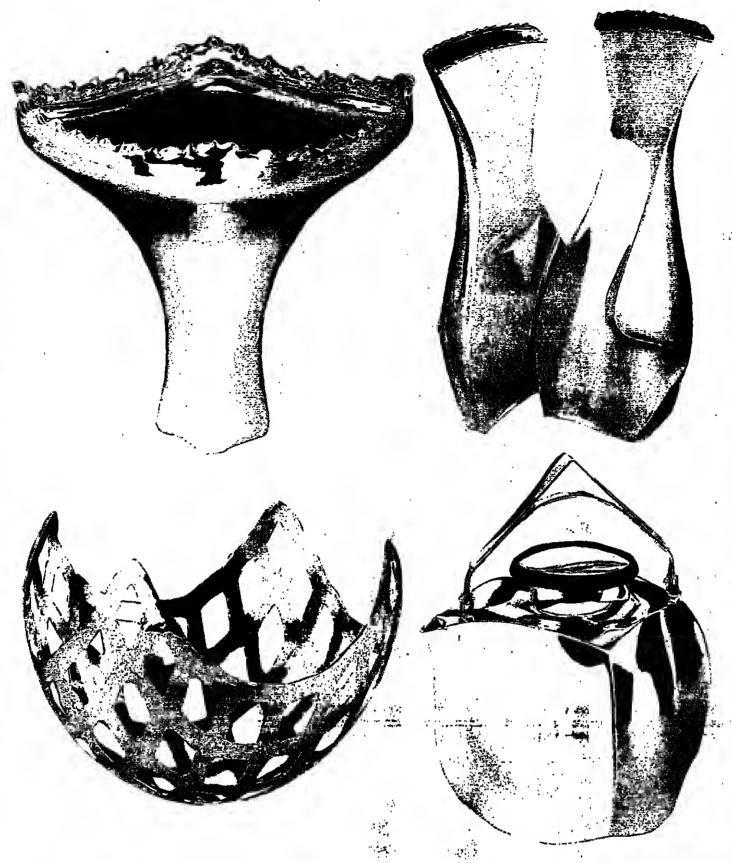
According to David Beasley, librarian at the Goldsmiths' Hall which promotes contemporary silver and jewellery, van Nouhuys's work blurs the line between the contem-porary and classical. "He is acceptable by hoth ends as he follows traditional silversmithing ideas of function and object, but his work has a pleasing, soft quality and is less angular than some of our British cut-

ting-edge modernists." In a field with a history of the ornate, Jan van Nouhuys's silverware is modern and geometrically-based. Among his collection are two chatting jugs, about 20cm high, a 14cm cubic teapot, a curious pair of 30cm high twin vases and a basket. Perhaps his best-known work is the table bell-cum-candlestick that he designed for the Dutch government in 1992 as presents for world leaders at the Maastricht summit."

Silversmithing is an art for van Nouhuys. "I am an artist and silversmith," he proclaims. "I create as an artist because I do what my heart tells me. It's about fascination."

Van Nouhuys has spent his entire adult life the is now 50 years old) pursuing what he describes as his "inner calling": helping others to set up in a skill for which no one produces the tools - you have to make them yourself or wait for an existing silversmith to retire; bringing other artists or designers together to produce pieces in silver; organising exhibitions; lecturing; studying past skills and setting up "Silver in Motion", a project that led to the formation of a centre for contemporary suver in a restored water tower in Schoonhaven, (now a national monument). Later this year, the Association of British Designer Silversmiths will join him there for a collaborative exhibition.

After such lifelong dedication it is perhaps little wonder that he refers



Clockwise from top left: Bowl, £14,000; Twinvases, £11,000; Cubic Teapot, £4,700; Round Basket, £2,100

to silver as a living muse: "Though obstinate, silver is very kind, gentle, willing, time-consuming, attentiondemanding. I want each piece to have a soul. From a straight cubic shape, I want it to start living. I ask 'How can I hring life to a cubic form?'

Like the world of nature he so often compares it to, working silver is a long and organic process which affords the silversmith time to consider the way in which the metal plays with light and reflection. Machine-made silver, van Nouhuys insists, is "completely dead" and will never have the artistic value of hand-made pieces (his are normally one-offs).

Sometimes, as with his 30cm scultpured candle stands, wine jugs and a rather ornate bowl with zig-zag edge, he works from a single piece of silver sheeting so the finished product is seamless. It's almost a point of principle. "Historians used to say it is impossible to work as the famous 17th-century silversmith Adam van Vianen did, creating out of a single silver sheet. As a silversmith. I said it must be possible. I'm not saying I'm as good as him, hut I've worked out the hypothesis and I'm on the way." He also works back to front from traditional techniques to make pieces like his cut-silver basket, sawing the diamond shapes out of the sheet before raising it into the shape he wants, or "is allowed to make by the material". "In this way," he says, "the holes are all differently subtle and natural."

Although his pieces sell for thousands of pounds, he insists they are made to be used, not just collected. "Using them is the fourth dimension of each piece," he stresses. "To take it in your hand and use it ... Pieces are polished by me in a way that's almost too nice. It improves when the polish is fading and it's a hit scratched from being used." But how do you evaluate what you are huying in the contemporary silver market? Stephen Burroughs, director of education at the Crafts Council comments: "The value is largely in the design - the shape, form and func-tion - as well as the construction. At its best, silver is thought to be extremely beautiful as well as utilitarian. After that it all comes down to one's own taste."

The Spring Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair, Tue 23 to Sun 28 Feb at Olympia, Hammersmith Road. London W14, admission £5 (0171-244 2219). For information call 0171-370 8188; or visit their website http://www.olympia-antiques.co.uk. Jan van Nouhuys: tel 00 31 0182 723

SIX OF THE BEST

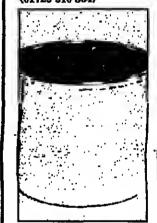
SILVER THINGS



Sterling silver pencil sharpener, £75, Asprey & Garrard (0171-193 6767)



Shingle bracelet with 'shell' sections looped and plaited together to create a flexible spine, £460, Syann van Niftrik (01725 510 364)



Silver christening mug with gold interior, £110, The Nursery Emporium (01249 811 310)



Seven Deadly Sins collection, £60, Mercator (0181-870 3938)



Sterling silver nut and bolt pillbox, £90, Tiffany & Co (0171-409 2790)



Silver-plated brass shell nightlight holder, £19.95, Ocean (0870 848 4840)

I WANT TO OWN ... A LAPTOP COMPUTER



From left: Powerbook G3, £2,400, Apple; Jornada 820, £799, Hewlett Packard; VAIO Note PCG-505 FX, £2,099, Sony

IF YOU daydream of typing the Description: The Jornada effecnext Bonfire of the Vanities while travelling to work on a carriage crammed with commuters, then this column is dedicated to you. There is, though, one thing you need to know about buying a laptop: before you take it out of the box it will be redundant. Computer manufacturers bring out newer, speedier, slimmer models faster than Zoe Ball can slam Tequilas. So be warned: everything you are about to read will be out of date before you get your car keys into the ignition. let alone make it to PC World.

POCKET MONEY Name: The Hewlett Packard Jornada 820 Price: £799 **Stockist: 0990 474 747**

tively bridges the chasm between electronic organisers and grown-up laptops. It's light (1.14kg), has a long battery life (10 hours), and comes fully equipped with software (albeit the stripped-down stuff commonly found on Personal Digital Assistants): Windows CE version 2.2, Pocket Word, Excel, Pocket Power Point and Pocket Outlook and unlike micro PCs, it has a decent-sized screen (8.2-inches wide) and keyboard. The ever-pulsating brain at the heart of this machine comprises an acceptable 190MHz processor, 16Mb ROM and RAM, and it also comes with an in-built modern (a now standard 56kbps speed), ideal for faxing and exploring the web (it comes with Internet Explorer software). Its major drawbacks are that it isn't 32Mb RAM and a chunky 4.3Gb

particularly upgradeable and there's hard disk. Standard accessories inno CD-ROM drive. Style: ***

Anything else worth considering? Hewlett Packard's cheaper, HP 620 V2 (£499.99, 0990 474 747) organiser, if you're only needs are memowriting and storing phones numbers.

POCKET ROCKETS Name: Sony VAIO Note PCG-505 FX Price: £2,099

Stockist: 0990 424 424 **Description:** This slimline laptop is slightly heavier than the Jornada, more than twice the price and about five times the machine. Despite being less than an inch thick and less than foot wide, this 1.35 kg computer houses a 10.4-inch LCD colour screen, 266MHz MMX processor,

clude a 56kbps modern, external (the battery lasts around three hours) and a touchpad pen. And because it's constructed using modular principles, elements of the machine can be upgraded when necessary to delay the usual freefall into obsolescence. The main drawback is that it doesn't come with anything other than operating software: so expect to shell out more moolah before you get into second gear. Style: *

Compaq's Presario 1255 (£1,499, 0845 270 4000) if your priority is a take it home and plug-in all-in-one package rather than something small and light. Bulkier than the Sony, the

Compaq has sleek Batmobile curves and feels like it could take a knock. CD-ROM and floppy drives, a It's also brainier, housing a subrechargeable lithium battery pack stantial 3.2Gb hard disk, and has a larger screen (12.1-inch). Its most notable design feature is a set of buttons around the touch-sensitive cursor control panel, which allow instant access to e-mail and the Internet. It also comes with an impressive array of accessories as standard including a 56kbps fax/modem CD-ROM drive, 3D accelerated graphics (a boon for playing games), enhanced audio software, and Microsoft Word and Microsoft Works word-processing software - just about everything you need to plug in, play games, write your first novel and cruise the Internet. For those addicted to Macintosh the king of kings in the

laptop world is Apple's Powerbook G3 (£2,400, 0870 24I 0212) which outstrips everything on the market for pace and price. It boasts a 266MHz processor, 64Mb RAM and a 4Gb hard drive, a CD-ROM drive, a 56kbps fax/modem and a 14.1inch screen. Everything else, though, will cost serious wedge (including the notably absent floppy drive). In fact, it's been observed that computers are so much cheaper in America (around the same price in dollars there as they are in pounds here), that you'd save more money than the cost of the tickets were you to fly to New York to buy it. Just remember that small matter of duty, before you book those tickets.

SHAUN PHILLIPS Deputy Editor ZM Magazine

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Lovers come and go but a linen cupboard is forever

More than just a piece of furniture, a linen cupboard is an almost forgotten way of life. By Michèle Roberts

mother kept her pistol in the linen cupboard. under a stack of square starched pillow-cases. The cupboard was in her bedroom, on the ground floor of the little village house inland from Etretat in the Pays de Caux in Normandy. My grandfather was often away on husiness, and he gave her the pistol to reassure himself that she would be safe during his

absences. He was an engineer, a very practical man. He taught her how to aim and fire the gun and made her practise her shooting regularly. If a burglar dared to come through the window at night, he would find my grandmother waiting for him with the pistol cocked.

The linen cupboard was of pine, as ornately fashioned as a side chapel in a cathedral. Tall and wide, reaching from ceiling to floor, it filled up almost the whole of one wall. It had been made in the mid-19th century as part of a dowry. In those days, in the countryside in France, you started off your married life with the furniture and clothes you expected to last a lifetime and that you would band on to your children at your death. A bed and a crockery cupboard and a linen cupboard were crucial items. The massive panelled door was opened by a large iron key inserted into the massive lock. The pediment and front of the cupboard were heavily carved with intricately twisted garlands of corn and flowers. These florid decorations embodied the local style in Normandy, the corn and blossoms symbolising the fruitfulness of the marriage of the young people who had been given

these pieces of furniture.

The linen cupboard made you think of secret sexy places, of the fullness that was pregnancy. It was a sort of household god. To me as a child, it was like a little house inside the house. A special place that you needed special permission to enter. We never went into my grandparents' room unless invited. Sometimes I accompanied my aunt to help berget out the clean sheets, or to put them away. Apart from the pistol, the cupboard was full of household linen. It brimmed with everything a family might need during a lifetime, everything made in dozens, most things stitched by hand. The sheets were pure linen, thick and heavy, embroidered by my grandmother with her initials in a raised silky monogram. In those days, linen was not a luxury but simply the hard-wearing material from which most household things were made, your clothes as well as your sheets.

During the Sixties, linen went out of fashion, I suppose because it was seen as

French grand-not high-tech enough. Too peasanty. Every-ther kept her pistol body was into futuristic clothes and fabrics, white plastic boots and satellites and Telstar. The vogue came in for man-made fibres like Terylene. My grandfather came back from working in the States bringing nylon-mix sheets, so the linen ones were hardly ever used any more. They were special, laid away as memories of an earlier, more leisurely time. Like so much else in my grandparents' house, they

and weight, the elaborate care that had to and stuck to synthetics. be taken in laundering them. They had to be hung up properly to dry in the garden, ironed with a hot steam-iron while still qualified as "best": to be kept in a to do the laundry in a big copper in the back they were too scratchy. He prefers cotton

I longed to inherit a pair of those linen sheets, but did not. But last Christmas, my dear neighbour in France, a farmer who damp, pressing the monogram on the back so that it would stand proud, and then folded in threes before being put away. It had sewn and embroidered for her own was a lot of work. When my mother was a trousseau 35 years ago and never used on child, a washerwoman came in once a week her own bed, because her husband claimed

box and wrapped in tissue paper. Part of yard, but in post-war France, you had your with a dash of polyester. She uses the linen the charm of the linen sheets was their bulk own washing-machine, did your own wash, sheets, some of them, to make up beds for the workmen who come and stay on the farm in summer, belping with the harvest. Lucky workmen, tucked up at night, after an exhausting day, in this superlative bedding; it's no more than they deserve. The sheets, when she brought them round, were yellow and thick, slightly rough to the touch. Now they have faded a little from being washed and dried in the sun and air. they have bleached to cream colour, and they are smooth as smooth can

> be to lie on. It takes two people to hang them out on the line, they are so heavy. They have drawn-thread work decorating the upper edge, all done by hand, and my neighbour's initials in stumpwork. They are wedding sheets, and make night-times feel like honeymoon. I was completely overwhelmed by the generosity of this gift.

When you open the door of a linen cupboard, you smell the outdoors, you smell summer. The sweetness of sun and wind which has dried the linen outside, the little bags of lavender that have been slipped hetween the layers to scent them and to keep moths away. It's like having a hayfield inside the house. Particularly powerful in winter. You can atick your nose into the starched piles of sheets and let yourself helieve that summer will come again.

But as people vacate the farms, as unemployment bites and the younger generations move to the cities, the old ways of living get lost. Traditional linen cupboards now sell in antique shops for huge sums and belong less and less to the country people who made them. They now decorate the salons of Parisian second homes rather than being used by working families.

People can get a bit precious about linen curboards and their contents. There is a scorching satire, in Doris Lessing's The Golden Notebook, on a lady novelist rabbiting on about the almost mystical rapture of sleeping in fresh white linen. I always felt a bit forry for this lady. Rupert Brooke, after all, went on about the rough male kiss of blankets, so I didn't see why she shouldn't rave about the smooth female bliss of clean sheets. French cynics define love as the contact between one epidermis and another. Well, lovers come and go, but a linen cupboard is always waiting, with the sensual, consoling caress of its sheets. That is something not to be despised.

Michèle Roberts's new novel, Fair Exchange', is published by Little, Brown, price £15.99

DESIGN



PERIOD-STYLE furniture, including double and triple, glazed linen presses (from £850-£1150, natural, waxed or painted) is now available from Grand Illusions (enquiries 0181-744

Those nostalgic for their grandmother's linen cupboard, however, would do well to visit Tobias and the Angel (0181-878 8902), which stocks antique presses, and even the authentic linen with which to fill them.

For reviving this, as well as modern fabrics, Lino nel Vento and Aqua de Limone Linen Sprays (pictured) from Jo Malone (0171-720 0202) contain a different types of lavender on a thyme and tarragon base, or citrus notes on a spice base.

For those who don't have time to make their own, Culpeper (01223 894054 - mail order and branch enquiries) manufacture

pretty lavender bags which, as well as recalling the scent of French country summers, will also keep

fabrics safe from moths.

Choosing linen is more complicated now than in the days when sheets were washed by hand, dried in the garden and steam-ironed. Easier-to-care-for options include the plain-dve percale range from Marks & Spencer. This fully machinewashable selection with a noniron finish is available at £30 for a double. Call 0345 902 902 to order.

Traditionalists may prefer the Reims range, a woven jacquard design in fine cotton sateen from linen specialist The White House (0171-629 3521), Guinevere, from the Victoria and Albert Museum collection by Dorma (double quilt cover £70, pillow-cases £17, call 0161-251 4400 for stockists) or Rose Trail duvet covers (pictured, £50 for a double, pillow-cases £12 each) by Cath Kidston (0171-221

KATY GUEST

Secrets of a century of inspiration

What began as teaching aids for students is now a fascinating collection of art across a range of media. By Margot Coatts

HIDDEN BEHIND the scenes in many art and design colleges are rich collections of works by alumni, graduating students and staff, as well as oddball collections of deign classics, historic teaching aids and photographic archives.

In December 1998, the London Institute an umbrella title for five of London's art and design colleges: Camberwell, Cenal Saint Martins, Chelsea, the London bilege of Fashion, and the London College of Printing – decided to mark the century's close with an exhibition of the colleges' joint archives and ongoing contemporary

A Century in the Making was prepared in just six weeks, a formidable task directed by Professor Margaret Buck (head of Central Saint Martins), curated by Sylvia Backermeyer, head of the Museum & Study Collection at Central Saint Martins, and designed by Russell Warren-Fisher.

While all the collections are today freely available to students and teachers, and are regularly drawn on for loans to exhibitions, they have never before been exhibited together. The range is extraordinary, from images of 1920s students grappling with hairdressing problems in one of the trade schools which was a forerumer of the London College of Fashion, to historical objects from the Teaching Examples Collection; such as fragments of 15th-century illuminated manuscripts or painted Victorian hes by William de Morgan, collected to in-spire by W R Lethaby, the first Principal Of the Central School.

The Camberwell Collection contains an assortment of artefacts, not necessarily associated with members of the college, which once formed improving exhibitions circulated to schools by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA). It is strong on avant-garde European design and British studio craft from the 1950s to the 1970s, containing stainless-steel tableware by Robert Welch, cutlery by Arne Jacobsen, ceramics by Lucie Rie, Bernard and Janet Leach and Ewen Henderson and glass from Whitefriars, Kosta Boda and Murano. And



Left: Murano glass decorative form and (right) ceramic head, 1998, by Stuart August (Camberwell)

here by Sam Smith's carved and painted

The Central Saint Martins Museum amples, but works by its famous alumni and in Brentford produced furnishing lengths,

School of Book Production in 1927-29, became a successful designer of textiles Collection houses not only the teaching ex- A team of women in her Footprints studio close to Bioomsbury.

no British representation would be complete without a dash of whimsy, supplied Joyce Clissold. Clissold, who studied in the Clissold's charming illustrative style. These, together with dye-recipe books, swatches, blocks and ephemera, are which she printed by wood and line block housed in the Southampton Row building.

Eckersley's poster designs has been formed at the London College of Printing. where Eckersley was head of design from 1957 to 1976. His posters exploit typeset-ting, colour offset litho and screen-print-

The London Institute's Contemporary Collection covers the hroadest possible range of media. It was established in 1986 and since then has steadily acquired outstanding work by students and, latterly, teachers. From Central Saint Martins

ing to the full.

The range is vast, from images of 1920s hairdressing students to painted Victorian tiles

students it has absorbed the latest research

in textile design and printing using

Cad/Cam (computer-aided) systems, and a stylish jacket in flower-sprigged paperlike fabric made by Hussein Chalavan in 1993. Camberwell graduates rate highly for ceramics and metals; interesting recent items include a raised and patinated copper vessel designed by Hiroshi Suzuki in 1996, now studying at the Royal College of Art in London, and the forged-steel "Croco" stool by Nathan Abbey, now set up in a studio in Old Street in the East End.

The London Institute collections have one obvious advantage over most museum collections, in that many of the works pre-date or divert from mainstream trends; this enables us to see directions that our existing visual culture might, and might

A Century in the Making: museum and contemporary collections from the London Institute, London Institute Gallery, 65 Davies St, W1, to 10 March. Mon-Fri 10-8

DESIGN LINES

PHILIPPE STARCK is the epitome of the wacky Gallic designer: his spidery lemon-squeezers and luminous lamps are bold, brilliant and very covetable Now the long-time enfunt terrible has hit 50, and to wish him Happy Birthday the design shop Purves & Purves is hosting an exhibition of his work, including his latest creation, a transparent plastic chair

'50 Years Starck' is at Purves & Purves, 80-81 & 83 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-580 8223) to 11 March

THIS IS your last chance to enter the new Peugeot Design Awards. The competition is open to creators of furniture, lighting, metalware, ceramics & glass, and textiles, The prizes include £1,000 for a winner, plus £500 for two runnersup per category, and £15,000 for the over-all winner. Closing date is 26 February. For an application form, send an A4 sae with o 31p stamp to Peugeot Design Awards, G2, Ozo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street, London SE1 9PH (website www.peugeot.co.uk/design awards)

TO TIE in with Modern Britain 1929-39, at London's Design Museum, the Twentieth Century Society has organised three days of talks and outings on the artists and designers included in it. Among the speakers and subjects are Robert Elwall on Ben Nicholson's Textiles and Benedict Read on "Herbert Read: 'the Pope of Modern Design'?". Modern Britain 1929-39 conference takes place 5-7 March, £20 a day (students £10). Bookings, Jill Sack. The Twentieth Century Society, 77 Concross Street, London EC1M 6EJ (0171-250 3857)

MECHANICAL BEAUTY is the aim of Steel, Stars and Glass at the Science Museum, an exhibition featuring five cars which tell the Mercedes Benz story from the 1888 Benz, the first Mercedes to arrive in Britain, to the new A-Class. Rarely seen photographs by Zoltan Glass, encapsulating the romantic history of cars, accompany the exhibition.

Steel, Stars and Glass is at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 until 28 March (0171-938 8000)

When size really counts

The Mercedes-Benz Smart is the ultimate city car. So why aren't we buying it? By Gavin Green

was the worst of times." Our two tales of a city car involve the little Mercedes-Benz Smart car, a machine of great contradictions. It s quite the most refreshing car concept in years, yet it received the same sort of response from motoring critics that Richard Branson's woolly jumpers get from the fashion press.

It is green and clean and completely in tune with modern ecofriendly thinking. Yet the very people who say they want greener cars do not buy it (sales in mainland Europe have fallen far short of Mercedes'

YTHE INDEPENDENT

ROAD TEST

great expectations). It is beautifully finished and as finely wrought as a Mercedes four times the cost. Yet it is pilloried for being overpriced.

It is the German giant's second radical small car in a year, of course. First was the A-class, now on sale in the UK. As with the bigger A-class. the Smart has run into stability scares. There has been dark talk of owners losing control on snowy roads in mainland Europe, where the car has been on sale for four months. Clearly, all is not well with the Smart.

Yet it is still the cleverest attempt there has ever been to make a proper city car. Mercedes, initially assisted by Swatch, the watch people, did not wish to launch just another me-too urban runabout a downsized conventional car, in other words. It wanted to break the mould. Unlike virtually every other car on the road, the Smart car is genuinely original.

How many times do you see the back seats of small cars being used in town? Rightly, Mercedes decided to scrap them altogether. If you need family-sized accommodation, you take the family car. The Smart, on the other hand, is meant for cities. As such, it is very small - more than a foot shorter than a Mini, hitherto the world's smallest production car. Yet it is also very safe in a crash, owing to airbags, a rigid safety cell

t was the best of times, it and anti-lock brakes. It is brilliantly easy to park and to manoeuvre in tight streets.

As the Smart is small, it does not need a large, conventional fourcylinder engine. Three cylinders and 600cc are enough. Just to ensure that it is not left behind with the bicycles when the lights turn green, the rear-mounted engine (under the boot) is turbocharged. Initial acceleration, far from being lethergic, is actually amazingly sprightly. To 30mpb from rest, the Smart is brisker than most conventional cars. If you must venture onto the motorways, it can do more than 80mph.

As the Smart is a city car, it has no clutch pedal - because, as every peak-hour-traffic motorist knows. clutches are a pain in the left foot. Instead, the Smart has a sequential six-speed gear change, which is brilliantly simple, allied to an automatic clutch. Also, because it's a city car, and susceptible to urban scars, the Smart has dent-free plastic body panels. These panels can be changed easily. If you fancy a new colour Smart, you can do so simply by changing the car's clothes. The colours are very bright, rather like Swatch watches, (Swatch is no longer a partner in the project, but its original styling philosophy lives on in the Smart.)

The cabin, the very place where owners experience their cars most closely, is superb. It is not swathed in grey plastic of unremitting cheapness and duliness, unlike most other small cars. Instead, it is lively and cheerful and beautifully made. As the designers did not have to cram four seats inside the cabin, the pair of passengers can luxuriate in much space, helped by the big glass area which belps to boost the feeling of airiness.

Around London, the Smart is a cinch to drive, and fun too. The tiny size is the key to its frolicsome nature. Small cars are invariably more fun to drive than big ones, the main reason why the Mini - despite its antiquity - is still such a boot,

There are three faults with the Smart: the steering requires too much twirling the ride can be severe on broken roads; and the front tyres, which are very narrow, don't have much purchase on the Tarmac -



The Mercedes-Benz Smart: the best way for two people to get around a big city

SPECIFICATIONS

RIVALS

Citroen Saxo 1.1 X £8,390. Utterly

conventional, dull looking, but com-

fortable and sprightly.

Daewoo Matiz SE 25,320. Stylish

but otherwise fairly undistin-

guished baby car. Good value,

Make and model: Smart City Coupe. About £7,500. Sales in the UK may start late this year. Engine: 599cc, turbocharged. three cylinders, 12 valves, 54bhp at 5,250rpm, rear mounted.

Transmission: Six-speed sequen-

tial, rear-wheel drive. Performance: Maximum speed 84mph, 0-60mph in 16.5 seconds, 55mpg.

the ride may be difficult to fix, but

surely the other tow faults can be

tackled without too much trouble.

Hat Seicento S £6,495. Current king of the city cars. Although, at the money. which is no doubt one reason why Smarts don't like snow. I suspect that

Even with the downsides, I found finer transport for one or two people. the Smart enormously enjoyable in It may come to Britain at the end London, and very practical. It is of this year in left-hand-drive form aimed at affluent urbanites who only, although no decision has been taken yet. London, of course, would it is enlightened. will own other cars - so all the grip-

the end of the day, it's merely a shrunken version of a normal small hatchback. Ford Ka £8,020. Cute-looking,

cramped in the hack, but fun to drive. Under the catwalk body are Fiesta mechanicals.

Skoda Felicia 1.31 £6,999. Gawky styling, but big, roomy and even tolerably well made. A lot of car for

ing about its smallness, slowness on be the target area. "It is a big-city motorways, tiny boot, etc, is non- car, aimed at chic people in chic sensical. It is a specialised car, and areas," says a Mercedes spokesman. must be appraised in its specialist This story, then, may be a tale of domain. And, in the city, there is no one city. But instead of the gloomy ware served up in the Victorian London that Dickens knew, the Smart is a vibrant, charming, bubbly little thing, that would be as enlivening as

THE NINETIES has not been a great decade for innovation. The world has been too comfortable to consider revolution. Truly great breakthroughs usually come from times of need, not times of affluence.

The Suez crisis and the threat of interrupted oil supplies, for example, played a big part in the birth of the Mini. The uncertain early Eighties helped sire the Renault Espace, the world's first "people carrier". But the Nineties have

been a decade of important improvements rather than mnovation. Cars have become cleaner, more economical, safer and much more reliable.

Is there a single European Car of the Nineties? I'm scratching to think of one. Candidates must include the Golf, for its sales pre-eminence throughout the decade, and its reputation (unique among small, massmarket cars) for quality. Or the BMW 3-series, still the most desirable small prestige car, despite Audi's inroads. The BMW's mix of restrained elegance, sportiness, decent economy and safety sums up what car makers were striving for in the Nineties.

What's missing, however, is a new-wave car, such as the Espace or the Mini. The biggest-selling "new segment" car has been the small 4x4, pioneered by the Suzuki Vitara and the Toyota RAV-4. But these vehicles are too frivolous to be considered great. They are fashion accessories not harbingers of a better future.

Rather, Renault sired the most important Nineties trend with its mini-MPV, the Scenic. It is being widely copied, most promisingly by Vauxhall, whose new Zafira is due to hit the showrooms later this year. More innovative, if less successful, is the Mercedes A-class - the most different car of the decade and in many ways ahead of its time.

The decade has witnessed the utter dominance of the German motor industry in Europe. Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler are easily



GAVIN GREEN

Bentley, Rolls-Royce, Rover, Mini, MG and Land Rover - proud and self-reliant 10 years ago - are now all German satellites

the strongest European car companies. Rover, Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Land Rover, Mini and MG - once proudly self-reliant - are now all German satellites. Germany also gave us the most awesomely competent car of the decade, the new Mercedes S-class.

Some car makers of which great things were expected, have failed to deliver. Others have improved spectacularly, none more so than Skoda. And Alfa Romeo, maker of rusty sports saloons 10 years ago, now makes the gorgeous 156, Europe's prettiest car.

In Japan, Toyota and Honda have not just weathered the recent economic meltdown but have prospered - proving what richly talented and resilient firms they are. Both are still benchmarks for quality, reliability and affordability.

But despite the unexceptional motoring decade, we are on the verge of true change. In the first decade of the millennium, cars boasting zero tailpipe pollution are set to roam our streets. GM. Ford. Mercedes and Toyota are all at an advanced stage with their hydrogen fuel-cell cars. Initially, sales will be small, but, then, petrol-powered cars spluttered before their

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sales exploded. Truly, the next 10 years should see a revolution on the road.



Harley-Davidson's new Dyna Glide Super Sport

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Harley is the leader of the gang – again

Just as its competitors were gaining, Harley-Davidson launches a dynamic new model. By **Roland Brown**

THE TIMING is perfect. Harley-Davidson has just launched a new bike, the Dyna Super Glide Sport, plus a range of existing models uprated with the American firm's first new engine in 15 years. Like a cavalry division arriving while Indians circle the wagon-train, the new bikes have not come a moment too soon.

Not that Harley is in trouble, you understand; but it is certainly under attack. Its phenomenal success in recent years has been achieved by cleverly exploiting its status as the only major American bike manufacturer, a position it had held ever since its great rival Indian went bust

in the Fifties. But all that is changing, and changing fast. Last month, Excelsior-Hender-

son, a new firm with a famous old name, began production of its Super X cruiser at a purpose-built factory in Minnesota. Snowmobile and watercraft giant Polaris has been selling an impressive cruiser, the V92 Victory, since last year And even Indian itself is on the way back.

Tradition dictates that Harley's response, the Twin Cam 88 engine. is no radical departure. Like powerplants stretching back to the firm's first V-twin, it is aircooled and has cylinders set at 45 degrees. But the

Twin Cam 88, named after its larger capacity of 1450cc and extra camshaft, has been comprehensively redesigned, retaining only 18

of its predecessor's 450 parts. Seven models have so far been fitted with the Twin Cam 88 unit, including the all-new Dyna Super Glide Sport. Although by no stretch of the imagination a sports bike, by Harley standards it's lean and aggressive. Its styling is simple, there's a minimum of chrome, and flat handlebars give an upright

rather than laid-back riding position. The Sport's Twin Cam motor is mechanically quieter than previous

units, firing up with a gentle thump through its twin exhaust nipes. Its main advantage is in its improved throttle response. The Sport is distinctly livelier than previous models. whatever the revs. Peak output is only about 70bhp, but it pulls strongly from low down, and accelerates towards a top speed of 110mpb with an urgency that no previous stan-

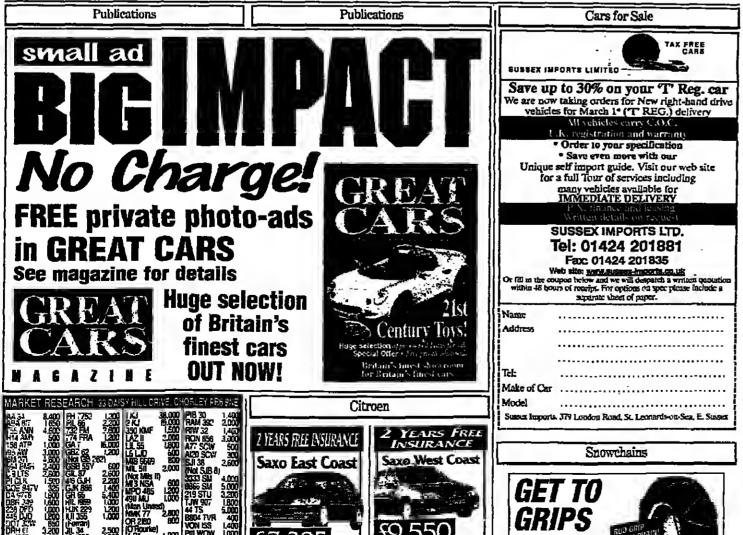
dard Harley can match.

If anything the new rubbermounted motor feels slightly smoother than the old, although Harley has taken great pains to retain that addictively lumpy V-twin feel. The Sport certainly feels very unstressed, lolloping along with a typically engaging beat. Harley has also done a good job

with the chassis. Its rigidity is increased by the design of the new engine, whose gearbox is more solidly bolted on. At 300kg the Sport is no lightweight, but it feels fairly agile and handles well, aided by fairly soft but well-controlled suspension.

The Dyna Super Glide Sport brings a new dimension to Harley Davidson and at £9,995, it is among the cheapest of Harley's "big twins" The competitors may be circling, but Harley is better equipped than ever to fight back.

MOTORING



Sporty 1.41 with

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MY WORST CAR

NICK BAKER'S TOYOTA LANDCRUISER

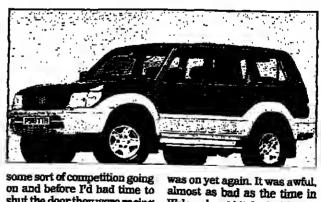
TECHNICALLY, I'VE not had any unreliable cars, but when it comes to worst car experiences, I've got dozens.

I managed to write off my first car, a Vauxhall Chevette, on a roundabout. I replaced it with a grey Volvo 340, which I bought from my mum. The worst thing about it was just how boring but reliable it was. I did my best to kill it, but it kept on going and now belongs to someone else and it still trundles around the village. It probably would have been a more secure bet than the Toyota Landcruiser I used

when making Nick's Quest. We were in Uganda to film mountain gorillas and spent eight hours bouncing up and down on the country's "roads". After a while we started to sneeze and cough and noticed that the interior was filling up with dust. We tried to tape up the doors with gaffer tape and eventually ended up with bandannas and hankies around our heads. The worst thing was that as we sweated the dust turned into a soil like substance, then after that cement.

When I got to the hotel I had three showers. However, when I woke up in the morning I was lying in a pool of mud. I'd sweated even more of that damned dust out of my pores.

A few weeks later I was subjected to a bizarre and frightening taxi drive through Havana. We hired two Mercedes taxis to take us to the Hemmingway Bar. What we did not realise is that the drivers had



shut the door they were racing Wales when I hitched a lift with each other through the narrow streets at 70 to 80mph. Occasionally they would turn

around, flasb an evil smile and ask if we were frightened. When we got to the bar, we

a rally driver on his day off. Nick Baker presents The Re-ally Wild Show' and 'Watch

Out'; his latest series, Nick's Quest', is on Channel 5 on found out it was the wrong Fridays at 8.30pm. He was Hemmingway Bar So the race speaking to James Ruppert

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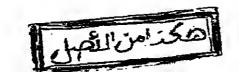
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with winter

conditions

Welcome to television country

Hit series set in beautiful scenery can do wonders for local house prices. But the opposite can also be true, as worried residents of the Lake District, setting of the BBC's top drama, are discovering. By Ben West

RESIDENTS OF Ullswater in the able effect on the property market. second homes, and so the sales Lake District are up in arms over the effect the BBC's hit television drama series The Lakes is having on the locality. Now in its second series, Jimmy McGovern's stirring shocker has lured thousands of extra visitors to the area.

Residents are right to be con-cerned how this may affect the local property market. It's nice to be in the limelight, but if a previously tranquil haven is transformed into an overwhelming tourist trap, house prices could plunge by thousands.

Although the expensive chocolate-box dramas can create considerable positive interest in an area, if too much grim reality is portraved - such as the accident-prone Bristol as seen in Casualty or the unglamorous Liverpool of Brookside - it is hardly going to produce a Kensington price tag.

"If an area becomes famous because of television you might find that it detracts from people wanting to live there - if it gets too high a profile, with too much traffic and too many tourist attractions and visitors," says Clive Hopkins, partner of agents Knight Frank.

Areas that are often filmed, such as the photogenic Royal Crescent and the area around Box Street in Bath, can have television production staff installed so regularly creating disturbances and pilfering parking places, that it can put people off

wanting to live there all together. With more than 160 episodes broadcast since the pilot in 1973, the BBC's Last of the Summer Wine is Britain's longest-running sitcom. Set in a beautifully-filmed Yorkshire Sea, Fruits of the Sea and the Pennines steeped in nostalgia. the current Seafood Odyssey, prices programme has brought a huge have risen sharply in the area. Lonumber of visitors to the area over

The programme is filmed around Holmfirth, near Huddersfield, and

"Although people wouldn't buy here just because they've seen the programme, it certainly encourages them to come here in the first place," says Beverley Fisher, manager and valuer of Halifax Property rvices in Holmfirth.

"The way the programme shows the area is picturesque and, in making the place popular, it makes it more saleable. It's certainly more expensive in the Holm Valley area, - prices are always in excess of those m similar villages nearby."

Halifax at Holmfirth (01484 685511) currently has a two-bed cottage for sale at New Mill, a semirural location close to what is described as "Summer Wine" country. It costs £64,950. At the town's Cliff Road, a stone-built Victorian threebedroom property with good views of the Pennines is for sale at £72.000.

The North Cornish port of Padstow has recently been experiencing

'Goathland used to be quiet, but now it's overrun. Television has had an adverse affect, putting off buyers'

a property boom believed to be caused almost solely by a star chef's television series. Since Padstow resident Rick Stein has appeared on the BBC to present A Taste of the cals have even labelled the port "Padstein" because of television's effect on the area.

"Last year, 91 per cent of everylocal estate agents have no doubt thing was sold to people outside the that the programme has had a size- county and 67 per cent was for

were obviously assisted by the programmes," says Michael Ivens. branch manager of Black Horse Agencies in Padstow.

People know that they are easily able to obtain income from holiday home rentals as the season has now extended from six to 10 months a year since the programmes were first broadcast.

Stein has featured Padstow in his programmes and has a restaurant. café and hotel in the area, which can only add to the attraction of the port for star-struck television viewers.

"Last year prices went up by about 3 per cent, but the year before that they went up by 20 per cent, and still the market is buoyant," says Ivens. "In the town itself, £100,000 would get you a three-bed terraced cottage with no parking and little or no garden. Three years ago, it would have been £85,000, and a lot of the increase is due to Stein.

Padstow's branch of Black Horse Agencies (01841 532230) currently has a five-bedroom terraced house in the town's conservation area and a three-bedroom detached bungalow at Trevone, two miles from Padstow. both for £129,950.

Goathland used to be quiet, but now it's overrun with tourists," says Michael Winter of estate agents Winters of Pickering, speaking of the village in the North Yorkshire Moors where ITV's Heartbeat is set, "It's had an adverse effect on the property market, putting off buyers.

"But although there may have been an adverse effect on the immediate locality, the programme has brought the moors to national attention. Most people used to assume this was the Yorkshire Dales. which James Herriot's All Creatures Great and Small promoted.

"Many more people are buying early 1990s we wouldn't get that



Too popular for their own good: the cast of the BBC's hit drama "The Lakes"

enough cottages available, which can The sitting room features a stone be attributed to Heartbeat. We sold one in Newtondale two years ago for £95,000 and it went last autumn for £132,000. In Rosedale there are hardly any cottages now, while three years ago there was the pick of 12."

Winters of Pickering (01751 472766) is selling Railway Cottage. second homes here now. In the a three-bedroom Victorian workman's cottage in the hamlet of New- Langworthy district of Salford many enquiries, but now there aren't bridge, near Pickering, for £64,950. has done nothing to improve prop-

fireplace and exposed beams. At houses are boarded up, and General Lockton, a modern stone-built endterraced three-bedroom cottage is going for £75,000.

One of the small screen's most famous images is the opening titles for Coronation Street. Yet longrunning television exposure for the erty prices. Many of the terraced Accident confirms that properties bere go for as little as £5,000.

Most external filming for the hit TTV show takes place at Crich and, to a lesser extent, Fritchley, on the edge of the Peak District in Derbyshire. "I haven't seen any evidence area - Lahurnham Street in the of its effect on property values, but exposure of the village in the TV series has meant that more people

are visiting, and identifying the Peak area as an attractive part of the country," says local surveyor for Black Horse Agencies, Paul Summerfield. "It's inevitable where you have a national TV series focusing on North Derbyshire."

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Current properties with the Belper office (01773 826981) include a four-bedroom detached cottage in Fritchley with countryside views

Dome, sweet Dome...

The Millennium Dome is at the heart of a London success story. By Ginetta Vedrickas

THE MILLENNIUM may mean a bigger knees-up than normal for many, but for buyers and sellers in Greenwich it has another significance. Are house prices escalating within staggering distance of the Dome?

Too early to tell," says Doug Norris, manager of John Payne Residential's Greenwich office. who helieves that improved transport in the form of the Docklands Light Railway and the Jubilee Line extension may be just as significant. But whatever the reason, "it will be a big year for us". Mr Norris has seen price

rises of between 30 and 50 per cent in the last two years hut. in line with the rest of the country, predicts steady, not startling future increases.

On the river front, one of the largest developments is Millennium Quay, where developers Fairview are building 580 properties ranging from one-bedroomed apartments to town houses. Will this flood the market and dampen prices?

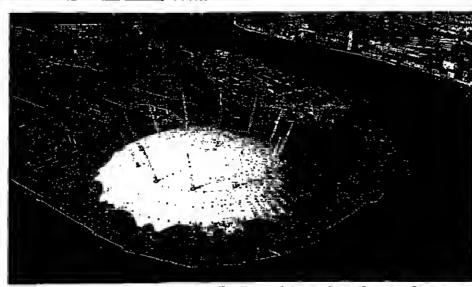
"We need more housing in Greenwich," says Mr Norris. In January, two-bedroom

flats in Millennium Quay fetched £70,000, apparently with queues around the block. Five bundred applicants are on the waiting list for the next phase which goes on sale later this month when similar-sized properties are expected to sell for around £90,000.

Amanda Ridley and Yi Guo currently own a flat in Camden, north London, but are consid-

ering a Greenwich defection. "It's a good time to buy before the Tube goes in," says Amanda. "It feels exciting to be part of something new, and it's

a great area for families." She believes that £90,000 is cheap for a riverside flat. "We



Whether the Dome's behind it or not, the Greenwich area is on the up and up

will stay for a while and then market a refurbished cottage sell. It will take us up the ladder a couple of notches."

For buyers who prefer a slice of history, Mr Norris has four three-storey houses carved from a church hall on Devonshire Drive for £260,000. A new agency, Trading Places, which specialises in "the weird and wonderful", believes this area is often overlooked; it is marketing a penthouse apartment in a Victorian school conversion for £360,000.

Buyers chasing an SE10 address at a knockdown price could do worse than visit an auction. Last week Hyde Housing Association sold several properties through Allsop that included two four-storey houses on Old Woolwich Road that went for £110,000 and £176,000. Both needed refurbishment, but Mr Norris estimates that, in top condition, four-bedroom houses there should command £200,000. This month he will

in Caradoc Street for around £150,000, and two properties in rental average of £500. the same road sold for £105,500 and £107,500 at auction.

Agents find that Greenwich now attracts a younger, professional clientele, but, for buyers with expectations larger than their pockets, Mr Norris advises exploring the fringes. Charlton is certainly grateful to its increasingly popular neighbour, "It's put us on the man." says Marjorie Baptiste, of Hindwoods and White Dent's Chariton office.

Hindwoods currently has no large period properties on offer, as Ms Baptiste explains: "They get snapped up immediately." Just 20 minutes by train to

London Bridge, the area has a large rentals market: "We get a lot of pre-married, premortgage professionals working in the City, but the property must look good. These days people don't expect shabby."

A good-quality one-bedroom property fetches a monthly

SE7 offers value and, while lacking the cachet of an SE10 address, benefits from Dome views at a fraction of the cost. More intimate views will soon include residents in Victorian dress (complete with corsets) when Wall To Wall Television films the second phase of its series, 1900 House, commissioned by Channel Four Executive producer Leanne Klein calls the programme a "living

experiment". "The idea is to show how our everyday lives have changed since 1900 thanks to scientific improvements and technological advancements," she says.

Ms Klein turned househunter as she searched the borough for a house where a family could live as Victorians (plus television cameras and spent days trailing the streets 0171-494 3686

maps searching for the rightsized property which would have housed a lower-middleclass family."

Ms Klein found much of Greenwich too expensive for her budget up to £200,000), and many buildings were pre-Victorian, unsuitable for the programme's rigid requirements: "Millions of houses were built at the end of the last century, and statistics show that around 40 per cent of us now live in houses dating back to that period."

She eventually bought a house in Elliscombe Road, in the Blackheath area, for £130,000, but her priorities were different from most huyers: We wanted it as horrible as possible to film its restoration. We were looking for a Seventies nightmare and we found it."

Ms Klein made many discoveries behind the Formica: We found the original Victorian wallpaper underneath, and the neighbours have let us look around their houses as all the houses in the street were built by the same builder"

Finding the house was harder than finding a family willing to live without the comforts of central heating, electricity and hot water for three months. Some 450 families applied, and now that restoration is almost complete, the sucits acre of garden. It was cessful family is about to move in 1900 House will be screened this autumn.

John Payme Residential: 0181-858 9911; Fairview: 0181-366 1271; Hamptons International: 0171-493 8222; Trading Spaces: 0171-277 4994; Hindwoods & White Dent: 0181-858 3379; AUcrew) for three months: "I sop & Co Residential Auction:

STEPPING STONES

SHEILA HAYDEN and her husband began married life in 1944 in a two-roomed flat in Edgbaston, Birmingham. When Sheila became pregnant their landlady disapproved, so they bought a house with a 45-year lease in nearby Moseley for £500.

The house bad an interesting past: "It was an air-raid warden's post during the war and was in a pretty poor state. A land demolished a large conservatory and the ruins still littered the garden." The Haydens set to "putting the place in order" and eventually bought the freehold for £600. In 1952 they sold for £1,500 and moved to Brewood, an attractive Staffordshire village, where they bought a small three-bedroomed

bungalow for £3,000. They lived happily with their two small children until one day they found a water mill a mile out of the village up a farm track. Not only was the property derelict, it was officially condemned as unfit for human habitation. What made the Haydens want to swap their comfortable bome for a condemned property? "It had a twoacre pool and paddock and a stream running through

such a beautiful sight." With great difficulty the Haydens persuaded the local, stately-home-owning landlord to grant a 60-year lease, for which they paid a few hundred pounds. They then found themselves in a Catch 22 situation. The council would not remove the order until the building was renovated and the



Haydens would not renovate until they were sure that the order would be lifted.

"Eventually my husband met the local surveyor behind the pub and the deal was struck." In 1959 the family sold their bungalow for the purchase price of £3,000 and, after two years of hard work, moved into what was by

now a beautiful house. In the 1960s the Haydens "took advantage of the Labour government's Leasehold Reform Act". They gave up the paddock for which they had no use but bought the freehold on the house, garden and pool for £2,500 in what proved to be an idyllic family home for almost 25 years.

By 1983, Sheila's husband's infirmity made maintenance increasingly difficult. They sold for £90,000 and moved into the village where they paid £60,000 for a modern house How did it compare to the mill? "At first I felt like I was in prison and was in absolute misery hut we pulled it to pieces and made it our own."

After 12 years, Sheila's hip replacements and her

husband's further infirmity prompted another move. They sold for £145,000 and went to live with family in Sutton Coldfield. Her husband lives nearby in a nursing home and Sheila enjoys security and independence. She recalls their property purchases with fondness, but has no advice for today's buyers: "So much was accidental. but it wasn't a bad investment."

Those moves in brief 1950 Bought air-raid warden's bouse for £500 (and freehold for £600), sold for £1.500. 1952 Bought bungalow for £3,000, sold for the same sum in 1959. 1960 Paid £2,500 for the

water mill's freehold, sold for £90,000. 1983 Bought modern house for £60,000, sold for £145,000 in 1995. GINETTA VEDRICKAS

If you would like your moves to be featured write to: Nic Cicutti, Stepping Stones, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL. A prize of £100 will be awarded for the best story published before 31 March

Definitely worth a punt

hot it's cold. So disproportionate is the imbalance between limited supply and massive demand that gridlock has set in, for traffic and property alike. That's the word on the street, and it is true for the top end of the market - but plenty of marsels are available further down the food chain.

"Cambridge Science Park and nther hi-tech business parks contain a number of world leaders in their respective fields. These constantly expanding research industries work in conjunction with the university, and a Cambridge address is important to these companies," says George Carey, who is a partner in Bidwells estate agents.

"There are not enough large family properties to go around. in the last two years prices have increased substantially. by 33 per cent to 50 per cent," says Mr Carey. "Large houses on the best roads are selling for £400,000 to £500,000. Even cash buyers from London whn sold a town house and have plenty of equity are frustrated."

SUFFOLK CAMBS.

Carey, "we bad 170 applicants on our books matching that property, and three buyers made offers over the guide price. But supply and demand are more evenly balanced in the lower and middle ends of the market."

Andrew Bradshaw, the senior negotiator at Pocock & Shaw, whn notes: "The problem of available properties is acute, but this does not affect the first-time buyer at the lower end." But he adds that "a huge number of newcomers to the area want large Victorian houses in central Cambridge. Demand for that kind of property is colossal."

His assessment is shared by

For large expensive properties, buyers and sellers alike When a house recently are locked into a vicious circle. came nn the market, says Mr Bidwells quickly achieved the

£535,000 guide price and had buyers to spare for a fourstorey, five-bedroom house, "but the seller wants to go one step up to a detached house with a larger garden, and they are staying put until they find one". They may stay put for some time to come.

The influx of newcomers has exacerbated the city's traffic problems, which in turn affects the property market: "Many people want to be in the city itself because transportation is a major problem, particularly when schools are in session." Mr Carey notes.

"Prices are very area-governed," cautions Mr Bradshaw. Studins in Cambridge are available for less than £40,000 to £45,000, and three-bedroom 1920s semis for £80,000, but prices are higher in the centre and in some especially desirable pockets.

Buyers who are prepared to redecorate can do very nicely. "What was de rigueur in the Sixties is now out of fashion." says Mr Bradshaw. "Town bouses built in the Sixties now need updating, and they are located in various pockets." And their selling prices reflect their tired condition.

ROBERT LIEBMAN Hi-tech industries and more traditional attractions are heightening demand

THE LOW-DOWN

Transport: One hour by train from Liverpool Street and King's Cross statings, Stansted and Luton airports are 30 minutes by car, fly to Amsterdam from Cambridge airport na Suckling Airways.

Patience: "People are reluctant to rent in a rising market, but if

TEL: 0171 293 2222

someone is buying from a distance, they should get no with their own sale," says Jnhn Carey, of Bidwells. "Rent here for six to 12 months, explore the area and be in a good position when properties become available. Be on the spot, be financially organised, and keep in regular touch with the agent, who

probably has hundreds of buyers on his books."

Prudence: The further north into darkest fenland the less accessible is the city - but the lower the prices. Mr Carey recommends Ely, "a cathedral city outside the 20minute accessibility radius, but

good value, attractive, and becoming fashionable because of the pressures nn Cambridge."

Ely: A detached six-bedroom bouse has large rooms, double garage, separate office and a £275,000 price tag. "The same house 10 miles south would sell for

up to £400,000," says Richard Hatch, of Carter Jonas.

Council tax: Band A is £455, and Band H is £1.365.

Estate agents: Bidwells: 01223 841842; Carter Jnnas: 01223 368771; Pocock & Shaw: 01223 322552,

THREE TO VIEW

COTTAGES: THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

THERE ARE cottages and then there is The Cottage, a splendidly drunken structure, pinkwashed with three bedrooms and three miles from Coichester, in Essex The part-tiled.



part-thatched house in almost six acres of grounds dates from the 17th century, but it has recently been extensively refurbished to include a hand-made upmarket kitchen with butler sink and brass taps, AEG oven and hob and

a plum-coloured Aga. From the 20ft-by-15ft conservatory, there is a view across the garden to a pond and old haywain. There's a beamed sitting room, study area and, outside, a timberframed garage, barn and summer house. Offers over £355,000, details from Strutt & Parker (01206 763388).

THE COTTAGE, in the Buckinghamshire village of Pitsone, is a Victorian semi so handsomely restored it was pictured as an example of perfect rendering by a DIY firm. Near to the Grand Union



square sitting room with an open fireplace and stripped pine doors, a study and a 20ft-by-18ft kitchen/breakfast room with a Rayburn set in a brick fireplace. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The mature Victorian garden has a path built of stone thought to come from the old station platform at nearby Tring. There are greengage bushes, crab apple, hazel and wych elm trees, a herb garden and climbing roses. Offers of £185,000 through Cesare Nash (01442 827000).

THE COTTAGE, seven miles from Eastbourne in Wilmington, East Sussex, suggests something modest, but it is a Grade II listed fourbedroom house dating from the 17th century and boasting views



across the South Downs from its half-acre garden. The brick-and-flint property - in need of some modernisation - has a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, built-in bookshelves and cupboard and a large panelled dining room with French doors to a courtyard. There are two bathrooms and a dressing room or nursery. Outside, the garden includes a pond and fig and walnut trees, and there are two garages.

Offers over £325,000 to Strutt & Parker (01273 475411).

ROSALIND RUSSELL

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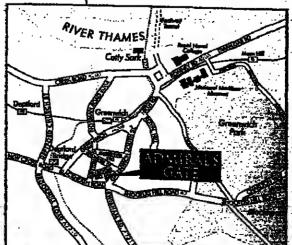
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